

Catsup, Computers, and Creativity

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
What and how to create something "new".	Ecclesiastes 1: 9,10

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Process

Include the steps of the gospel throughout the lesson; so while student attention is fresh, the real lesson is being planted.

Begin with prayer.

Make body gestures and noises as though you're straining very, very hard to think of something. Then stop a moment and say, "I'm trying to invent a new idea." Then continue a moment or two longer with greater effort and gestures.

Ask the students how they go about coming up with a new idea, or invention. Watch very closely, because this is a trait that is seldom found in youth today, due to easily accessible mindless games, and no-thought entertainment. Our brains that were designed by the Creator to have calculating power and storage capacity far beyond that of any computer built today; but our imagination, freely given to everyone at birth, is a virtue no machine or invention will ever equal.

Read The Giant Lens.



With or without computers, our Lord and our leaders cherish things we design from "leftovers" that make our business, church, or life more productive and pleasing.

Compare this with creating which only our God can do. In Genesis 1:1, "created" comes from the word *bara*, which means *to build from NOTHING*. What a marvelous contrast between our abilities (which are gifts from God), and His powers! When He creates, He starts with nothing more than Himself. But we can bring into being only by recombining things He has already given to us. That tells us that God's provisions for us are not lacking; He has gifted us far beyond our hopes and dreams.

It's really fun to create poems on the computer. Computers make it easy to smooth out a verse by changing a word or a sentence. Inexpensive software programs called "Rhyming Dictionaries" make writing poems even easier. At

the very least, most word processing programs have a thesaurus (pronounced, *tha-sar'-us*). A thesaurus doesn't tell you the meaning of a word, but gives you a list of other words that have about the same meaning as your word.

Another way the computer helps us to write little poems is to make it easy to add or take away little fill-in words, which make the verses the same length. If we want to make two lines about the same length in a poem, it's easy to SEE on a computer if the lengths are about the same.

Freckles of gold; How determined they be
To get right up again -That's a lesson for me.

A "thank you" it says, that well-kept grass;
To church folks attending a service or class.

To focus student concentration on the poems, ask what "freckles of gold" might refer to, or what lessons these two little verses are teaching. The lessons apply to our computing time, as well as to mowing the church lawn.

Depending on the ages of your students, help them create a verse on the computer or blackboard. The Holy Spirit will want us to ask Him to help, especially if you choose a poem, subject, and words that are used in the Bible. Example: Start with the last half of the great Bible verse, Psalm 118:6, "*What can man do unto me?*"

Then give the students some words that rhyme or sound like *me*... free, sea, see, tree, three, be, tea, he, coffee, or C.O.D.

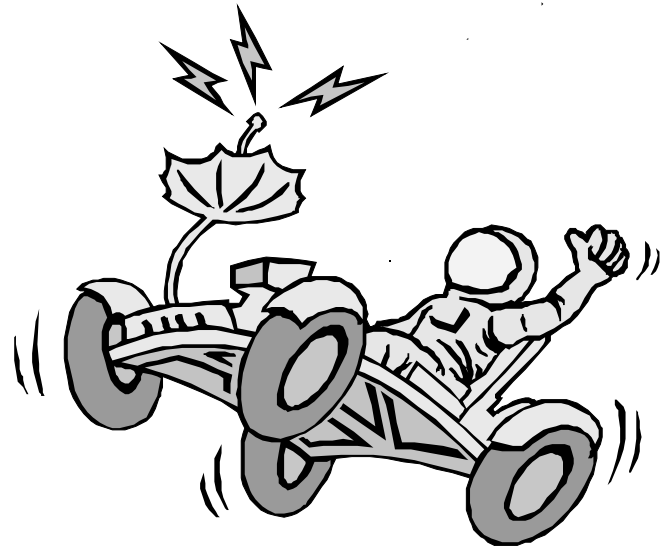
Remember too, that a song begins as a poem.

My computer dictionary has an anagram feature. It can rearrange letters in the word "SAVED" and create new words... How many can you create?

Ad, ads, as, ave, sad, save, saved, ed, sea, vas, and vase are a few.

The keys to the creation process in man are **imagination, ideas, and action**. For instance: We can mix gelatin, lemonade powder, and water to create super-tasty, no-drip popsicles.

Or, if you bake some chocolate chip cookies and blend them with a new neighbor and some conversation, you get a new friend. Try it.



ComputiVerse

The wisdom God gave to King Solomon has never had an equal – even now with all our computers and space telescopes. See

what he wrote in the Old Testament part of our Bible: Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10:

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us.”

Isn't that just like our great God? He's provided everything for us... and didn't even keep back His own Son. Are you thankful for ALL His provision? Tell Him so, right where you are, right now.



More Goodies:		Website: www.wsprog.com
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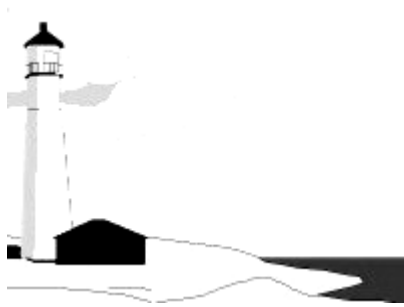
The Giant Lens

[Theme: With or without computers, our Lord and our leaders cherish things we design from “leftovers” that make our business, church, or life more productive and pleasing.]

"Thelma, we're in a fix and I don't know how we'll get out of it this time,"

Frank began rehearsing the words in his mind. He often spoke to himself as though he was talking to his wife, Thelma; sort of listening to the words and how they'd sound as he finished cleaning the gigantic lens. With a firm grip on the knob of the little door, Frank stepped out onto the balcony and surveyed his small island. Most would think Frank, Thelma and their little island to be very unimportant, except for the lighthouse that stood tall and proud. Frank was pleased to have this important responsibility, even though he was usually alone. Except for his precious Thelma and the ship that brought provisions twice a year, Frank was by himself all of the time.

"That was a good supper, hon," Frank said as he cleared the table. Then the radio was turned on while Thelma picked up both Bibles, and the couple settled down, each in his favorite easy chair. For the next hour, the little house connected to the side of the lighthouse was filled with comforting Christian melodies, and then a soul-stirring message by their favorite radio pastor. After taking part in the closing benediction, Thelma knew what she would see – even before she opened her eyes.



"Frank, you're still disturbed about it, aren't you?" His wife's words were softly spoken.

Frank nodded. "Thelma, we're in a fix, and I don't know how we'll get out of it. I believe it's true that God's Word says we're supposed to go to the highways and byways, and speak to the lost about their need of salvation. I believe God meant that for everybody; us too! And that's the problem! How are *we* going to speak to anyone? We talked to Jake and Lyle while they were unloading provisions here, but somehow, that just doesn't seem to be enough."

Trying to somehow ease his concern, Thelma said, "But didn't Pastor also say that God *always* provides a way - and sometimes more - to carry out His great commission?"

Although his life wasn't cluttered with many of the frivolous cares we have, Frank's feeling of being trapped on this little island and not being able to share the gospel, weighed heavily on him. He'd often climb the circular stairway to the top of the lighthouse and make his way out onto the balcony and slowly walk around on it for a long time. Saturday was a lot like that. Or was it Friday? Oh, who cares? In a prison, all days are the same. Aimless step after aimless step around the little balcony, as Thelma's words kept coming to mind, "God always provides a way - and sometimes more - to carry out His great commission." "God always provides a way." "God always...." "God always..."

As Frank's eyes scanned the scene, at least all of it that wasn't under water; he wished the answer to his troubled heart would leap out of the ground to meet him. So many times, his eyes had asked the flowerbeds over here, or the little dinghy over there, but there was no answer. No answer.

Just beyond the only bush on the prison, I mean island, the trash dump could barely be seen. Bags, boxes, cans, paper and ~

And WHAT?! Frank's heart leaped within him!

THAT'S IT! THELMA! THELMA, THAT'S THE ANSWER!

He thought he had sprained a finger trying to get the little door open before racing down the circular steps inside the lighthouse.

THELMA! THELMA, HE GAVE US THE ANSWER!

It made no sense to Thelma when, between deep gasps of breath, Frank told her to get the washtub and many sheets of typewriter paper. Then he ran to the trash pile, mumbling something.

Almost an hour and a half later, two excited people leaned against the whitewashed tower and gazed at a row of twenty-seven sparkling clean empty catsup bottles, their tops in a pile.

The sun hadn't set more than thirty minutes before Thelma read the final note, rolled it up, and put in the last catsup bottle. Frank, sitting on a nearby boulder, watched twenty-six bottles bobbing in the waves not far from shore. He was talking to Someone, though he knew Thelma was too far away to hear.

In case you have some catsup bottles not being used, you'll want to know what one of the notes said:



"Dear friend,

We'd like to introduce you to Someone that can open any prison and set you free. Bridging a gap of geography, judgment, or barriers of man's sin and its consequences.

Christ's hand of forgiveness reaches to where you are right now and shows the scarred palm of love that holds tight for evermore. Trust His shed blood and know the eternal freedom we enjoy...

Frank and Thelma

More Goodies:

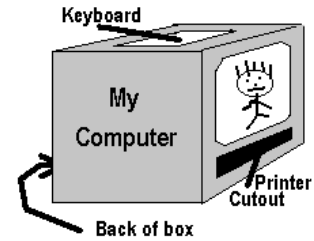
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Build your own Computer - Friends Fun

[Theme: Pretend computers are great discipling tools.]

Be creative. Build your own computer. No matter if you already have a real computer... whether you're nine or ninety, you'll make good use of a pretend computer made out of a cardboard box and a few things around the house. The idea is to use things around us to instill in others that we need to use our computer to tell others about Jesus Christ. Also, to explain those computers are calculators that have no heart, nor can they know anything about God and His great love.



1. If appropriate, ask a parent to work with you in cutting out the Printer hole and the back of your computer, while using sharp tools.
2. Ask God to help you to safely build the computer, but also to use your efforts to link the computer interests and imagination of others, with learning fun things about God and us.
3. Realize this computer doesn't have to be fancy or realistic. But it's better than a puppet show could ever be. To be used in school, jr. church or during your family get together time.
4. Draw a simple keyboard on top so it will appear right side up when standing behind the computer. Use markers. They're not messy like crayons that will rub off later. You could show how to learn to count by 'pressing' the right 'keys' on the computer. You can even be thankful for the 26 letters of our alphabet. We can "write" letters to others on our computer.
5. Add a computer 'upgrade' by adding a mouse to your computer with some heavy string and a small box. Draw some buttons on top of the little mouse box. A computer mouse helps others that can't type or use their fingers very well to have fun with computers too.
6. Most of the back of the box should be cut out, so that you can handle the 'paper printout' when it is needed for your presentation.
7. Using a white piece of paper and some colored markers, make monitor screen with some characters or picture that goes along with the presentation. It can be changed for the next presentation or like a flannel graph story.
8. The printer cutout in the front of the computer needs to only be about ½ inch high but wide enough for a sheet of typewriter paper to easily slip through. The 'printout' can already be sticking just a tiny bit out of the slot until it's ready to "print out" all the way.
9. Add another computer upgrade by cutting out the box just a bit smaller than a sheet of paper, in the "monitor screen" area. Shine a flashlight in different areas on the paper screen.

Ideas for stories can be "God wants girls AND boys to use computers for Him", "I'm making a list of light bulbs used in our church", "I'm writing a poem about my parents", "I'm making a list of everyone in my class and what they're good at", "What I think the hardest part of being a missionary is", "Here is how my computer will be used on the Space Station that orbits around Earth", "I'll show you how my computer can print out words to songs big, for grandma to read", and so many others. It's fun to discover so many of the others.

Young children can be computer missionaries too. ☺