

GOF Bk 11: Object Observation

Received by: CQ and DE

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Cuddly Animal Toy

Soap and Scrub Brush

Table Wiping Cloth

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Broom and Dust Pan

Batteries and Flashlight/Torch

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Telephone

You can talk to Jesus anytime and anywhere! You can say the words out loud, or in your heart and mind, and He will hear you, and answer you too! Saying a prayer is just as easy as talking on the telephone. All you need to do is think about Jesus, tell Him that you love Him and that you are glad He is your friend and helper, and then tell Him what you want to say. Jesus will hear all that you say, and He even knows what you are thinking and feeling too. If you need help, just ask Him! Give Jesus a call through prayer.

Cuddly Animal Toy

Isn't it nice to feel a soft and fluffy toy animal? It feels so comfortable in your arms. If it was made of rough and pokey material, you wouldn't want to keep it very close to you. When you are like a soft and gentle teddy bear and act kindly, speak softly to others, and try to make things pleasant for them, then people want to be around you more. If you act rudely, or speak unkindly, or treat people roughly, others won't enjoy talking and playing with you. Gentle and kind people are the ones that others want to be friends with.

Soap and Scrub Brush

To clean your hands, you can use soap and water and sometimes a little scrub brush. What can you do if your heart or mind is dirty with ugly or unkind thoughts

and feelings that don't make Jesus happy? If you are upset at someone, or if you have done something wrong and haven't told Jesus or others that you are sorry, or if you have let ugly and unloving thoughts into your mind and heart, then you need to get cleaned up. Reading God's words and praying are like using soap and water, they can help your heart and mind to get clean again. Asking Jesus and others to forgive you for your wrong doings, and praying with others to ask Jesus to help you to change, can be like a good scrub up. You'll feel all nice and fresh and clean again.

Table Wiping Cloth

To wipe a table clean we need a cloth, but the cloth gets a bit dirty. If the cloth stayed fancy and shiny and never wiped a mess, your table wouldn't be very clean. It's good if each of us is willing to help with the humble jobs also. When someone looks at a nice clean table, do they say "Wow, what a great cloth that wiped it!", or is the wiping cloth even noticed at all? The cloth helps the table to shine, just like each of us can be a help to others. We can do the humble things, even if no one notices us or we get messy while working hard. Jesus will bless and give good things to those that are humble helpers to others.

Tidy and Clean Clothes

Do you like to get dressed up in special clothes for certain occasions? Maybe you are having a celebration and you wear something fancy, or perhaps for beach play you put on some colourful summer clothes. When people notice a nice outfit that you put on to look well-dressed, it can make you feel good. Did you know that people notice what you do even more than the way you look? When your words and actions show a nice example to others of kindness and consideration, cheerfulness and being helpful, it makes people feel like you are the fanciest one around—wearing the "clothes" of a good example. What you do and say is noticed by anyone who is around you, and will help others want to be that way too.

Broom and Dust Pan

Little things that you do or the things that you choose not to do, make a difference. It may not seem to matter to you right now if you do a job well, but later on you'll be so glad you did. People notice if you just try to do things fast, or if you put thought and care into doing things thoroughly and well. Taking care of

things that seem small and of no immediate consequence can save you a lot of time and trouble later on. A nail left on the road can make your car have a flat tyre that may delay a trip and take time to get fixed. Putting away something that is special to you, rather than leaving it lying around, can keep it from getting lost or accidentally ruined. Washing your hands well when they are dirty can keep you from getting sick. Sweeping up every bit of something that broke can prevent you from stepping on it and hurting your foot. Being diligent and careful is important, and will have good results.

Batteries and Flashlight/Torch

Flashlights are really useful when you go camping and when it's dark. They can light dark corners or show you where it's safe to walk. But without batteries, the flashlight is no good. Or if the batteries get used up, the light from the flashlight gets weaker and weaker until it's gone.

The Holy Spirit is like the batteries in our flashlight. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and wants to make things easier for us, and to help us. Just like we have to put the batteries in if we want a flashlight to work, we can pray and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to help us do our work. One way to keep our spiritual batteries, or energy, charged and full of power is by taking time with Jesus and His Word, and also by taking time to thank Him for our many blessings. The Lord needs us to shine brightly for Him. He wants to charge us up with power so we can do that.

Shoes

Going hiking with your dad or mum is lots of fun, isn't it? Sometimes though, the way gets steep or slippery, and it's hard to know where to put your foot so that you don't slip or fall. Maybe your dad or mum told you, "Step here where I've stepped. That's a safe place to put your foot." And when you did that, you didn't slip at all.

All through life, Jesus is walking with us. Sometimes when things get tough, it's like He's taking us on a big hike. But all the time He's saying, "Step here where I've just stepped. That's a good place to put your foot."

All we have to do is follow in His footsteps, and we'll be safe. If we're not sure what to do, we can always ask Him. Or even stop and think: "What would Jesus do?" That way, you'll always be sure that you're on the right path and going God's way.

Bike Helmet

Riding a bike is so much fun! And when you're ready for it, your parents will take the training wheels off so you can ride a big-kid bike. When the training wheels go off, you have to learn how to balance on your bike. That's not always easy. There may be times when you fall and get a bump or a scrape. That's why Mum and Dad ask you to wear a bike helmet, so when you fall you don't hurt yourself too much.

It's fun to ride bikes, especially when you have your helmet on. No matter how old you are, it's always important to wear a bike helmet. Even professional bicycle racers wear them. They wouldn't think of entering a race without their helmet.

In the same way, Jesus gives us His helmet of salvation when we receive Him in our hearts. Jesus loves us so much! He wants to keep us safe and protected, and able to make it safely through the race of life, all the way to Heaven. And the good thing about Jesus' helmet of Salvation that He gives us, is that we can't ever lose it. Once we've prayed and received His gift of salvation we'll be kept by Him, and the falls and bonks of life won't harm us. We'll just keep getting up and riding again, until we hear Him say "You made it!", and then we'll be home in Heaven at last.

Lego

It's so fun building things with Lego. You can make anything you want—from space ships and satellites, to houses and castles, and even helicopters that take off and land!

God had a lot of fun making His creation too. Only He didn't need to work hard to get the pieces to stick together, or hunt around for one piece that was missing. All God had to do was say the word, and it was so! He said, "Let there be light!" and there was light! All through the creation, God said it and it was so. It always happened just as He said! That just shows you how powerful God's Word is, and why it's so good to read His words in the Bible.

We can also get to know what God's like from His creation, just like we can tell a little about you by what kind of things you make with your Lego. Or just like a

painter who paints a masterpiece. People can get to know what the painters are like by the colours they use, or the kind of pictures they paint.

Clocks

Clocks are really useful to help us keep track of time. We only have a certain amount of time each day and in our lifetime, too. Solomon was a very wise king who once prayed, "Lord, teach us to number our days so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." He was asking God to help him not to waste time but rather use his time each day, in the best way possible.

It's easy to get tripped off when you're supposed to be helping Mum or Dad, or when a teacher or trainer is explaining something. You have to teach your mind to behave, or it will be like a naughty little kid that doesn't obey and just wanders off. You have to teach your mind to behave itself, and remember what it's supposed to do.

Clocks help us a lot with that, because they are always steadily ticking out the time. They let us know how long it takes us to clean up our room, or to get dressed. Time is very precious and we don't want to waste it. We only have a certain amount of time each day, and we can't get back the time we spent. Our lives are each made up of many little minutes and seconds. So let's try to not waste time but rather to use it wisely doing things that we will be glad we did, and that will make Jesus pleased that He gave us the gift of time to use.

Gloves

Have you ever tried on some gloves that were too big? Or some other ones that were too small? They didn't work very well, did they? The big ones made it hard for your fingers to pick anything up, and the little gloves were uncomfortable and you couldn't move your fingers well, since they were too tight. Gloves that fit well are a benefit to you, whether you're working in the garden or you just need some gloves to keep warm.

Our words can be like gloves. If they're loud, or rude, or pushy, they are like the gloves that are too big. They don't fit, and make you feel clumsy. Words that are unloving or unkind can make people feel uncomfortable, like gloves that are too tight.

The Bible says that "words fitly spoken" are really precious and valuable. They are as valuable as golden apples, or silver pictures. Just like you take time to find the right sized gloves, let's take time to choose our words carefully and make sure they are the right fit. Let's use words that are helpful to others and make them feel warm inside, and protected and cared for—like good gloves do.

Backpack

Backpacks are a really neat invention. They are perfect for going camping or hiking. Backpacks are made of strong material and can carry a big load. Whenever somebody goes camping or hiking, they always make sure they take a good strong backpack along.

If people can count on you to help bear the burdens of others, then you'll be highly sought after and in demand—just like a good quality backpack. It's not always easy to see the needs of others and look for ways you can be a help, but that's why we're on Earth: to help bear each other's burdens and be a blessing to others.

The time may come when you will need help, and then you'll be so grateful that someone is there to help you. You'll appreciate their help so much—just like a strong, sturdy backpack that can carry a big load. That's how we want people to think of us, and that's what makes Jesus happy too.

Puzzle Pieces

What's a puzzle without all of its pieces? Have you ever put a puzzle together only to find one piece missing? The place where that missing piece should have been stood out like a glaring hole, didn't it? Just one little piece, but without it the puzzle is not complete.

Sometimes we may feel like we are just one little piece of a puzzle, and no one's going to notice whether we are there or not. But each person is important, just like each piece of a puzzle. You have a unique sparkle, a special something that no one else has because God made you special and unique, and He loves you.

He needs you to be a part of whatever is going on and to be there with your whole heart, because you count! Your smile and your sparkle are important! Just like a puzzle that's missing a piece, when you aren't there or aren't smiling and being an enthusiastic help to those around you, then something's missing. So do your best for Jesus. You count to Jesus and you're a part of God's big puzzle!

Bouquet of Flowers

Everyone enjoys looking at a bouquet of flowers because it's so special. It doesn't have to be fancy flowers from a shop. Maybe you picked a bouquet from the garden one time for your mummy and she was so pleased and happy that you did that. She probably put it in a vase with water, so everyone could see and admire it.

When we're positive, which is like being all sunny and happy inside, then we are like that bouquet of flowers. Everyone enjoys being around us and is happy to see us. But when we're acting grumpy and thinking only about ourselves, then people are quick to find somewhere else to go.

So let's try to be like God's sunshine flowers and shine with His love and happiness. Sunshine flowers make everyone happy and they're welcome everywhere!

Different Socks

Have you ever pulled out some socks from your drawer and found out they didn't match? -Just when you were in a hurry to get out the door! You had to rummage through your drawer and hopefully you found the other sock that matched. But it took a lot of time and slowed you down.

That's the way it is when two people have a hard time getting along and working together. It's just like mismatched socks. It just doesn't work! A lot of time gets lost in arguing and saying unkind words. Nothing will go right until you can start agreeing and working things out together. It's just like trying to wear two mismatched socks. Learning to work as a team is like that too. You have to start off on the right foot, agreeing together and working together. Otherwise, nothing will go right and everything could go wrong. It's so much easier when people can agree and work together nicely like a team. -Just like a pair of matching socks!

Pen and Notebook

Pen and paper are really good for drawing and writing. Maybe you're just learning how to write, but you probably already know how to draw pretty well. You see Mummy and Daddy or other adults using notebooks and pens all the time. Writing things down is important because it helps us to remember them later on. Maybe you like to draw pictures of your vacation, or draw about special times like

Christmas, or your birthday. When you look back at your pictures some time later they remind you of something fun that happened, or of something you learned or did.

Well, the Lord likes to remember things too. He has lots of big books that He writes things down in. One of them is called the Book of Remembrance. He remembers everything we do, all the good and the bad. He also keeps track of our words and how we use them. The nice thing about Jesus is that He sees all that we do, and He loves us anyway. Isn't that sweet?

Toy Blocks

Do you like playing with wooden blocks? It sure is fun stacking them and building things with them. One time, Jesus told a story about a wise man and a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand, and the rains came and washed his house away. But the wise man built his house on a rock, and the rains and the winds couldn't knock it down. Jesus said if you build your house on His words, you will be like the wise man who built his house on a rock.

Wouldn't it be amazing to have a tower of blocks that was impossible to knock down? Jesus can make your life that strong and steady, if you love His words and try to do what He says. Jesus is the Master Builder and He is pretty smart. So the best thing we can do is follow His words and obey them.

Tissues

Tissues are really helpful when you've been crying. They're perfect for wiping away tears that you've cried, as well as wiping your runny nose. If you fall and scrape your knee it's so nice when Mummy holds you, cleans up the cut, and wipes away your tears with a nice soft tissue.

All throughout life there are times when we fall down and hurt ourselves. Big people fall too! But as we get older, the hurts and bonks are more complicated than falling down and scraping a knee. Sometimes the hurts happen more on the inside, in our hearts, and other times our bodies get hurt or sick. But whatever kind of hurt we get, whether as a little kid or as a big grownup, Jesus is always there to comfort us. His loving arms will hold us and He will wipe away all the hurts and pain.

The Bible says that in Heaven, God is going to wipe away all our tears. Do you think that He must have a very big box of tissues up there to do that? -Maybe so. Or

maybe He has dancing angels and gentle fairy beings with soft wings that will wipe away the tears. God's got all the comforting love and healing balm we need to help us forget every pain and hurt that we've ever had.

Hands—Big and Small

When you put your hand on an adult's hand, your hand seems really small doesn't it? But a baby's hand is even smaller compared to yours. When you were a baby you had little tiny hands, but now, since you've already grown up so much, your hands are bigger.

You didn't grow from a baby into a big child or a teenager right away, because it takes time to grow up. Sometimes it's easy to get impatient thinking it's taking so long for your birthday to come, or waiting for when you'll be grown up.

But things take time. That's why it's good to have patience. Trust that God knows best and that He's helping you grow up in the best way. Just think if you were all grown up overnight! You wouldn't know all the things grown-ups know, like how to drive a car or what to do at work. It takes time to grow up, because we need time to learn all the things that grown-ups need to know. So let's just trust God that He knows best, and let's enjoy each day as it comes.

Grains

They're just little seeds, but each one has the potential to grow into something big and useful. They may look really small when they're just dried up and lying in a bowl, but give them some water and soil and they will start to grow.

Jesus sees each of us and knows all about us. Just like seeds, everyone is different and everyone has a different purpose. But if we are planted deeply in Him, and have the sunshine of His love, and the water of His Word, then we can each grow into something big and beautiful, and useful for God's glory.

Don't ever think you're just a little nobody and no one sees you. Just like the little seeds are part of God's creation and His plan, you are too! If you'll just trust Him and go where He wants to place you, and be what He wants you to be, you can be someone who does a great big job for God and lives a useful and happy life.

Autumn Leaves

Every season is beautiful in their own ways. There's a time when the leaves fall from the trees, all curled up and brown. They fall to the ground and make a crackly sound when you step on them. Then comes winter when the trees are bare, but that makes us all the more thankful for the beautiful evergreen trees that are such a big part of Christmas. After the cold winter, the sun warms everything up, the trees grow new leaves, and some are all decorated with pretty spring blossoms. Birds are chirping and building nests. Flowers are peeping up out of the ground.

We can see beauty in each season of the year. And if we wait long enough, each season will come around again and again. Autumn will turn into winter, spring will follow, and then comes summer. In each of our lives there are seasons too. Nothing always stays the same, just as it is, for our entire life. Sometimes it's the season for learning patience through a sickness; other times it's a season for growth and experiencing new things. Sometimes it's a season of excitement, while other times it's a quiet season, where things are moving along slowly and calmly. God has a perfect plan for every living and growing thing, and He has a perfect plan for you. He knows all the times and seasons of each life. So enjoy every day and every season of your life.

Pet's Cage

If you have a little bird or a hamster, then you probably want to keep him in a nice roomy cage. The cage keeps your pet safe, so they can't fly away or run off and get lost. So a cage is a good thing for keeping pets safe.

Jesus likes to keep us safe too, because we're special to Him just like a much-loved pet. He has an invisible shield around us to keep us safe from accidents or danger. The way to keep our shield strong is by guarding our thoughts. When we're thankful and thinking positive thoughts, it's much easier for Jesus to protect us. However, when we let ourselves feel down and discouraged, and we grumble, then our shield is not as strong as it could be. It's easier for us to have accidents at those times.

That's why it's important to guard our thoughts and to keep close track of what we're thinking about. Thinking good positive thoughts will keep us close to Jesus. That's the way to stay protected by His protective shield.—Just like a little pet in its nice, safe cage.

Sun Umbrella

When you're enjoying a sunny day at the beach, it's nice to have a big sun umbrella to shelter under. That way, you can enjoy the beach and the sunshine without getting too hot. A big umbrella also protects you from getting sunburned, while you're playing in the sand or near the water.

Jesus' love and care is a lot like that sun umbrella. They protect us from harm and danger, and make it possible to enjoy ourselves. No matter where we are, the sun umbrella of Jesus' love is always right over us to protect us. All we have to do is ask, and His protection and care are right there for us. Jesus is always thinking about us, and how to keep us safe and secure. His love and care is just that wonderful!

Bows and Ribbons

Girls like to wear pretty ribbons in their hair; boys like bright sports shirts and caps; and men like to wear colourful ties to complement their shirts. Everyone likes to dress up a bit, so they will look their best.

It doesn't matter what we wear or which colour we like best, we are each beautiful to Jesus. He made everyone different so that we would like different things. Altogether, we make up a rainbow of colours and diversity that He enjoys. Jesus doesn't have a favourite colour or a favourite way of dressing. Nor does He have a favourite person. He loves each of us just the way we are. Jesus is happy that we're all different, and He loves us all the same. We're each beautiful in God's eyes.

Band-aids

If you've ever gotten a scrape or a scratch, you know how nice it is to have a band-aid. When you put it on, it makes a nice protective covering while the skin heals underneath.

Praying for healing can be like putting on a special band aid. When we pray and ask Jesus for healing, He is happy to give it to us. Just like when you need a band-aid, you can just ask your mummy for one and she's happy to give one to you. Best of all,

Jesus' prayer band aids are supernatural. They go to work right away to bring healing wherever it is needed. He made us, so He can certainly fix us!

Tools

We are like a house that God likes to live in. His Spirit lives in our hearts. Every day, Jesus helps to build a bit more on us—like a carpenter adds more onto the house he is building. Maybe today Jesus will add a bit more patience or kindness onto His special house—us. Or perhaps we'll make a mistake and learn something helpful from it, and that is like having something new built into our heart and mind.

If we keep the house of our heart clean by filling it with God's Word and taking time in prayer, and we praise Jesus any time we can, then He will enjoy living with us and His Spirit will be in us. When people talk to us, play with us, and are around us, they will notice the wonderful way Jesus has made us. It doesn't happen overnight. It takes day-by-day listening and learning from Jesus to help build us strong in faith and love, and to be pretty too—just like a nice house!

Cars

When was the last time you got a scratch or a bruise? It didn't feel good and you probably wish it didn't happen. One good thing that getting hurt teaches us is safety and carefulness. Everything we do has consequences, and we can be kept safe by remembering not to do things that are dangerous. Little bonks can be like a warning light that keeps us from doing something that might cause us a bigger accident and hurt.

One day, we'll all get new bodies! In Heaven we will never have pain, or get sick, and we'll always look great! It's kind of like cars—they always need maintenance and need to get fixed up. Sometimes they get scratched or bonked and have accidents. When we get our new Heavenly bodies it will be like someone on Earth getting a brand new car that doesn't have anything wrong with it. We will look shiny and wonderful, and our bodies then will work so well! We won't have to drive around either, or only walk, but we can fly if we want to. Won't that be great?

Watering Can

When you need perking up, a word of encouragement or thanks from someone can do it. -Just like a plant or wilting flower can be revived and look fuller after it has been watered. Words are interesting and amazing things. You can't see them or touch them, smell or taste them, but they are just as real as anything else around you. In fact words can have more of an effect on you than anything else around you.

The words you say to others, what you read or hear, and what people say to you can make a huge difference on the way you feel and on what you choose to do. Words like saying, "Thank you so much!", "That's very nice of you!" and, "You are good at that!" can change someone's sad feelings into joy in a matter of seconds. It's amazing!

Water others with words of admiration and appreciation, and you'll see them perk up, act kinder, and feel happier. When they do, so will you! It's like watering a bush and then seeing it grow flowers that make your yard look cheery.

Glass of Water

Have you ever felt real thirsty, after playing a running game outside on a sunny day? It's important to keep ourselves refreshed and to drink plenty of water. Just like our bodies need water, our spirits need the refreshing inspiration and faith from Heaven. When we take time with Jesus and we read His word, our hearts get filled up with the "living water".

We will feel energized and empowered by God's Spirit. When we take time to read God's Word, it's like getting washed, and refreshed, and filled up inside with water from Heaven—just like you enjoy drinking a nice glass of water, or having a shower. People who don't drink enough water often act cranky and they get sick more often. If we want to have cheerfulness throughout the day, we need daily drinks of God's Word—through reading it, and by listening to what Jesus wants to say.

A Tent

Where do you live? Some people travel around, camp in tents and move on to a new place after a while; some people live in big fancy mansions with lots of room; while others live in tiny apartments. Some people make their homes on stilts, as there is so much water around and some people have nowhere to call home at all. Sometimes

people stay in one place their entire life, while other people may travel all over the world and live in a variety of places.

We who love Jesus can be excited and look forward to a wonderful and beautiful home in Heaven. This world isn't our home forever, but it's more like a trip we are on. We are visiting Earth, learning all that we can, and trying to help people along the way. So if we don't have the perfect house, or things aren't so great in the country we live in, or we are too cold or too hot, we can be encouraged to know that our real Heavenly home will be just marvellous. -And we'll get to live there forever!

Jewellery and Gems

Pretty earrings or a nice-looking necklace can make a lady look extra-pretty, all dressed up and a bit sparkly. Or perhaps a man might have a tie-clip that is made of gold or silver. Men used to have clips for the cuffs of their sleeves, and these were sometimes made with precious stones. A hair clip might look extra fancy and have pearls or ribbons on it. Sometimes buttons are made to look like pearls, which look gentle and pretty. When people get dressed up, they like to add a special touch by using nice-looking things. Gems, pearls, gold, silver, and brass, are considered real special and fancy-looking.

When something decorative is added or placed somewhere to enhance the appearance, it can be called an "ornament." Did you know that the Bible tells us that when we have a meek and quiet spirit, it's like putting on something nice-looking? That means that when you are acting polite, letting others speak, listening to people, letting them get the first and best, appreciating and complimenting others, and acting humble, it's like putting on the fanciest and shiniest decorative ornament of all! It really stands out, and looks great on you! Sometimes being quiet and not saying anything at all can make you seem more handsome and pretty to others—if you don't have anything good to say. Or letting someone else win a game, or get the appreciation of others first, can make you seem like an even nicer person than if you had acted very rough and pushy, and loudly announced to others some great thing that you did. So if you want to dress-up real nice for others, put on humility, meekness, and gentle quietness.

A Present

There are some very special gifts that Jesus gives His children—those that love and trust in Him. One gift is called, 'faith'. This gift helps us not to worry or to be afraid, and to know that in the end Jesus will work out the best things for us. Faith gives us the confidence to ask Him in prayer for what we need. We know He loves us and cares for us, and that He wants to answer us and give us only what is best for us.

Another gift we can receive from the Lord is knowledge—to know certain things that others might not have noticed or learned, to know the truth, and to have special insight, know-how and understanding about things. Healing and miracles are wonderful and encouraging gifts that God's Spirit can also give us. Hearing Jesus speaking to us in prophecy is a special gift of the spirit too. We may not see these things as wrapped up presents that we can hold, but they are good and helpful gifts that make our life easier and help us to do our jobs for Jesus better.

Nail Clippers and File

What would happen if you never clipped your toenails or finger nails, or file your nails as some ladies do? Would they always be the right length and look nice? Some things, like nails and hair, and grass in a garden, need care to keep looking their best.

We also need to watch over our thoughts, feelings, and reactions, and not just let ourselves do whatever comes to mind. We need to be able to say "no" or "that's enough" to ourselves. Moderation or self-control, are words that mean that we can control ourselves and make sure we don't overdo on things. We are then able to stay healthier and safer, and those with us will find us enjoyable to be around.

Computer Keyboard

Some things might seem difficult to learn, and seem to take a long time until we can do them well. Typing is something that takes time and practice, and lots of patience and determination to learn. However, when you know how to do it, you are then able to use that skill to help others. It will make you feel so glad that you persevered and learned how.

Learning how to speak a new language can be a challenge, but that is another good skill that may really come in handy some day, when you are then able to understand what someone is saying and help explain things to them. Even learning to read,

write, do math, or learn about the world and its countries, can be very beneficial and you'll be glad you learned them. When you are able to help others as a result of your learning something new, it can make you feel great.

More Object Observation to add to GOF book

Oct 2017

36.) Hats

Hats are made in all sizes, shapes and colours, and made from many types of materials. Some are good for sunny days; others keep you warm in the winter. A crown is worn to show that someone is responsible for ruling and caring for many people. Helmets are used by firemen to protect them as they help rescue those in trouble. Other hats and head gear can show what job you do, or what country or culture you come from.

In our lives we need to find out what jobs and behaviour suits us best, and is the way God made us to be. We can't all be like kings and rulers, wearing an invisible crown, and try to tell others what to do. However, maybe sometime you will be given the job of helping to teach and care for younger children. You can act with grace and use polite words, as royalty try to do. On another day perhaps you will be asked to help cook a meal. That can be like putting on a chef's hat, and doing your best to be safe and careful as you make good food for others. Or maybe one day you'll discover something that could cause an accident, and then you choose to stop and fix things up. This is like putting on the head gear of a rescue worker.

We can ask the Lord to give us whatever skills and abilities are needed to do a variety of tasks. We can be useful and help out in many situations, and learn to act in the best ways while in those situations.

37.) Fresh Veggies

Fresh vegetables and fruits are one of the best things to eat. They are good for you. A raw piece of fruit or a veggie doesn't take much time to prepare, or energy to cook. It's quick and easy to wash and eat, and gives you energy.

But with so many choices of snacks being sold, things that aren't good for you but are fast to pop into your mouth, it can be hard to make the right choices.

Whatever you eat will affect the way you feel, and affect then what you are able or not able to do.

There are choices we need to make every day in all sorts of things—what to wear, what to say, who to be a friend with, what to do with our time, what to watch or listen to. Everything will affect the way we feel, and then make it possible—or not possible—to do things later on. Some choices will make us be able to succeed in our goals, while other wrong choices will hinder or stop us. We need to not just do whatever is fast and easy, but what will empower us to do what really is best and will make us, and others, and the Lord the happiest.

38.) Personal Grooming Tools

We can use some tools and items to keep ourselves looking nice, and smelling fresh. We might use a hairbrush or comb, a toothbrush, and a towel, for example. If we neglect to care for our body, it may not work well. If we are smelly and dirty it might make us unwelcome around others. Just like we have to care for our body and keep it looking nice, we need to care for the part of us that others can't see very well. Our spirit, the real us that is housed in our body, though invisible, also needs to be cleaned and cared for. We need to keep our mind and heart fresh with the water of God's word. We need to not hold on to the dirt of angry and sad feelings, or ugly thoughts. We need to give our spirit good exercise by praying and trusting God to help us and others. We need to give our spirit rest by reading or listening to inspiring things and talking about the wonderful things Jesus does for us, and has done in the lives of others.

These things will help keep us in good shape and looking our best--in heart, mind and spirit--so we can serve the Lord and be a great help to Him and others.

39.) Balloon

A balloon can look so big and colourful and attract attention. When you look at the small piece of rubber or plastic—the real size of a balloon before it has been blow up—it's hard to imagine that it could get so big. But it's only filled with air of some type. And as soon as the air is gone, it's just a small, thin, little thing.

The Lord can take us little ones, very little compared to Him, and can make us do something big and great. People look at us and think we are amazing. What we have done is attracts interest. But we need to remember that only with the power of God's Spirit in us can we do these great things. As soon as we allow the thorn of pride to

come near to us, and we start to think we are so wonderful on our own, then our balloon of good works goes "pop". Pride makes us pop and flop, and everyone then sees how small and broken we really are. We need to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, and stay thin and flexible, so God can fill us and stretch us to do the great things He wants us to. Humility is helpful. With pride you'll pop.

40.) Gardening Tools

Gardening tools can remind us of taking care of things. If we want to have a nice garden, we need to put time and effort into caring for it. If we want to have the Earth look nice and grow beautifully, we need to do our part to take care of it. Even more important, however, than caring for the plants and trees, the farms and gardens, the land and nature, is taking care of the people that are living and growing and learning on Earth. Each one of our hearts can be like a garden—either a lovely place filled with beauty, or and unkempt filled with weeds of unkindness that has grown from the seeds of hurtful words and ugly pictures that others have sown.

We need to help take care of God's big garden, called Earth, and the most important aspect of it is caring for each other—for each and every person in the World. We can help supply the needs of others, and we can also make sure we are sowing kindness and truth, beauty and inspiration into the lives of others.

Taking care of people is a good way to keep the world like a lovely garden for God. It might take work and effort, but the good fruits or results of our service to God will be worth it.

41.) Orange Juice Squeezer

What helps the juice come out of the orange, as it is pressed and twisted on the juice squeezer? The ridges and bumpy edges, and the pointed top part is needed to help release the juice. Once the orange goes through the bumpy pressure and squeezing, then a refreshing glass of juice can be enjoyed.

Sometimes we go through things in our lives that might feel tough. We might be under pressure, and feel squeezed in a tight spot, or lacking freedom we wish we had. But God can help us in those hard times to learn things that can help others. We can bring words of understanding and comfort to others. With God's Spirit helping us, the hard times can help us do something wonderful as a result. He can use us to bring joy and inspiration to those who feel weary.

42.) Steering Wheel

A vehicle's steering mechanism—for example the steering wheel of a car—is what is used to reach a chosen destination. What if the steering wheel couldn't turn? It would cause an accident at least, and you certainly couldn't travel far. If all you wanted to do was to move the car a few feet forward, perhaps you could do that without needing to turn the wheel. But if you want to go on a longer trip, you need to control your car's direction, every bit of the way. Maybe there is a hole in the road you want to swerve to miss; or perhaps you are driving on a windy mountain road and have to be careful to not fall off the edge; or when you reach an intersection you have to turn to the left road or the right road in order to get to your destination. To have a safe and successful journey, you have to be able to guide the car.

To have a safe and successful journey through our life, we need to let God take control of the steering and guiding. He knows where he wants us to be, and knows how to get us there in the best time and way. Let God take the driver's seat and have a good hold on the direction the car of your life goes. You can trust Him to really take you places and give you the best ride of your life. Even if it seems He's taking you on the long way around, or on a detour, trust Him. If You ask Him what to do and when to do it, His words to you can be like the steering wheel in your life and guide you in all the right ways, through all the rough roads, and then into the best places.

43.) Empty Containers

Some things are the most useful when they are empty. If you are thirsty and need a drink, you look for an empty cup to fill. When you take down clothes off the laundry line, you appreciate having an empty basket to fill. When a cook goes prepare dinner, they need an empty pot to place the food in. What makes these items useful is that they are able to be used because they are empty. If they were filled and couldn't be reused, they would be put to the side.

Jesus has so many neat things he wishes for people to help Him with. So He looks around in the world to see who is eager to be of service for Him. He needs people whose schedules aren't filled with doing their own time-wasting things. He needs those whose minds and eyes and ears aren't filled only with the world's thoughts and ways. He needs those whose hearts are ready to be filled with God's Words, and their minds ready to be filled with God's ideas. He is so thrilled when someone says, "Jesus, I'm available for You. Please tell me what Your plans are, and I'll do them. Fill me with your thoughts and ideas. Then I'll be empty and ready again for You, Jesus, to use me

further." When we listen to Jesus and do what He has planned for us, this pleases God. He's glad then when after doing one thing for Him, that we don't get too busy with our own plans, but come back empty again for Him to give us new things to do. He can keep filling us with new ideas and thoughts and inspiration.

44.) Traffic Light

Just like a traffic light is a warning signal that must be obeyed, so does God give each of us special messages and signals to keep us safe. We each have angels around us that know more than we do about what could happen, or could not happen, if we do this or that. If we pray each day for safe keeping, and then we pray as we go along our day, this can help us to miss out on troubles, and gain great blessings. God uses His angels to give messages to us, warning us or instructing us to do this or that. We'd do well to pause, to pray, to listen and to swiftly take action on what God and His angels want to instruct us in. They are like invisible guides or teachers or coaches in our life. Thank God for His angels of light that help us in so many ways. I wonder what they want to tell you today? If you pause to think about the Lord before you do something, rather than just speeding off, you might be spared an accident, or you might notice something special that that Lord has for you.

45.) Lemon and Honey

Lemons are sour, but good for you. If you put some lemon juice in a cup and add some water, it's a great healthy drink. If it's a bit too strong you could add some raw honey to soften the taste. The lemon helps the sweet honey not be too sweet; and honey helps the lemon not be too sour. They go together. Just like when someone has made you feel bad through sour or unkind words, you need the sweet words and encouragement of others to cheer you up, as well as the sweetness in your heart to forgive them. If something sour happens to you, it might help you to learn a tough lesson, but you can ask Jesus to send the sweetening to your heart to make things better for you.

46.) Bouncy Balls

Balls are fun and useful for so many games and activities. But if balls couldn't bounce, it would take much of the fun away. Imagine if you went outside to bounce a ball and after you dropped it down, it just stayed on the ground and never bounced up again? Or if tennis players tried to play, but as soon as they dropped the ball and prepared

to hit it, it just stayed on the ground of the tennis court and couldn't be hit over the net? What fun would that be?

When things can bounce up, or rise up, and don't just sink down and stay down, we say they are buoyant. We can learn to be buoyant about things that happen to us. If something gets us down, we don't have to stay feeling low and useless. We can choose to rise up again and try to do something good anyway. If we try to say something nice to someone, and rather than kind words coming back to us, our ears are met with sharp words, don't let that take the bounce out of you. Just pick up the ball of your joy and keep it bouncing! It's more fun to live that way!

47.) Baby Backpack or Carrier

There are lots of things we'd like to do, but sometimes we need help to reach our goal. And everyone has something in their life that they would really like to achieve, but there are too many hindrances stopping them. If we lend a hand to help others, or say a prayer for someone struggling, this may be just what was needed to help them reach their goal. It's good when we see that we all need each other. It's nice to be a dependable, trustworthy person that others call on to help them. Then when you need help to reach your goal, they may remember the good you did for them, and might want to help you.

When people are real young, like babies and little children, or when they are very old and elderly, these are times when they especially need help. It's nice to remember how you were helped and cared for when you were a young child. When you are grown it's a good time to repay the kindness by helping other people that are very young or very old, or who have physical handicaps. One day you may need lots of help, and others who have received your help may return the kindness to you.

48.) Wheel's Hub

All the spokes of a wheel are attached to the hub in the centre. This hub centre needs to be good and strong, or the wheel would collapse. All the aspects of our life—our friends and family, our desires and activities, our possessions, our jobs, the things we want to learn about—are like the spokes on a wheel. Our life will keep moving and going well if we make Jesus be in the centre of our life. If He is what we are attached to and we move forward as He moves us along, then we'll make good progress and be strong. If the spokes just pointed some other odd way and got detached from the centre, though part of the wheel might look somewhat round, it could no longer

move the vehicle forward. We need Jesus to be the most important One to us, and our decisions to be based on what He knows is best. Then we can make the right kind of progress and stay strong and in shape.

49.) Bellows and Fire

Fire needs fuel, but it also must have air to keep it going. If you cover a candle with a glass jar or a metal can, the lack of oxygen will make the flame stop burning. Sometimes a blacksmith might use bellows to blow extra air on his fire to keep it going and getting hotter. He needs it to be very hot to soften the metal he is working with. Bellows have a nozzle at the end that sprays out lots of air. First the bellows are opened and this sucks in the air into the sack, then when they are pushed shut, the air is forced out quickly out of the nozzle at the tip.

Jesus said to let our light shine for Him, and show people the light of God's love and truth. When we ask for His Holy Spirit to help us, that is like getting a breeze of wind or boost of air on a fire. God's Holy Spirit can keep us letting our light shine, and the keep the hot fire of our love for Jesus glowing and burning, to bring warmth to the sad and cold hearts of others. Our life is like the fuel that we let Jesus use. And just like fuel lasts only a certain amount of time, so will our time on Earth only be for awhile. Let's let our life be a blessing and lit with our love for Jesus, and infused with the power of God's Spirit, so we can really glow. What good is an old log in a campfire, without being of use to the cold and hungry campers that needed something to cook their dinner on, or to stay warm by, or to help scare away the wild animals and bothersome insects? If it just sits there unused, it will get wet from the rain, decay, be nibbled on by bugs, and then turn in to dirt again. Let's not let our life—like the wood—get dampened by the world's ideas and pressure to do nothing great for God. Instead stay nice and ready and eager for use by Jesus to help warm and feed those who are hungry for the truth that God wants them to know.

When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they heard a sound like wind. God's wind came—God's bellows were blowing!--And then there appeared as if it was fire above each of their heads. They must have looked a bit like candles with a little flame at the top.

Perhaps through that happening Jesus was demonstrating, what He had said to them earlier, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." (Matthew 5: 16) He related it to a candle also, saying the flame should be put on a candlestick to be seen, and not covered over. Jesus also said to those following Him and telling others about Him: "Ye are the light

of the world," (Matthew 5:14)

Let's pray for God's Holy Spirit to keep us going and going and let the light of our love for Jesus attract many to Him.

50.) Piano or Musical Instrument

When the keys of a piano are played in the right order, the way that a composer has planned and arranged, then it can make a lovely melody. All sorts of feelings and moods can be expressed when different notes are played in certain ways and in a planned or composed order. If a person was to come and bang with their hands and fingers randomly here and there all over the keyboard, it would make no song, and would sound very discordant.

God's world is like His instrument to tell us lovely messages, or teach us things. He's always trying to give wonderful messages to us through the things He has made in nature. If we listen to what the Great Composer of the world and the people on it, is trying to say and sing to us, we'll be amazed and inspired, and filled with wonder and joy.

But if we just bang around in the world, ignoring the music sheets and order that the Creator wants us to discover, we may think there isn't any rhyme or reason or pattern to this world. We might think things are all discordant and confusing. But if things look this way, it's because we and others have missed our music lessons with God and we need to stop each day to learn how to play His instrument—the world—and learn to play the pieces of music that He wants to teach each person. He has something special for each one to learn to play. If we all learn the song of our life well, through working with God as our teacher, then the world will be filled with new and lovely melodies and will be in harmony again.

Did you listen to God today, as you looked at nature? Maybe He has a new melody to put in your heart. And if it sounds difficult to play, don't worry. He'll also be right there with you as you make time daily to learn from Him, and He'll teach you how to play your personal life's melody—the things He has for you to learn and do, things that will beautiful your life and the world around you.