

Balloon Science Experiment



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- (2) 7" balloons
- (2) 8 or 16 oz. bottles, labeled "Andy" and "Ben"
- Baking soda
- Water
- White vinegar
- Funnel

BEING BRAVE & WALKING WITH JESUS

Following Jesus is not always easy for children, especially in today's culture. Prioritizing between what is right and what their peers are doing can be very challenging when they have choices to make. Talk to your kids about this and ask "Who will you put first when you have to make difficult decisions? Jesus or the world?" It's important kids understand they can be brave and walk with Jesus.

Then, read the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Bible (Daniel 3) and explain that these men had to choose if they would serve their king or walk with God.

This fun science experiment helps kids understand the question, "Who will you put first?" by creating a relevant story and a visual reminder.

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

— MATTHEW 6:24



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PREPARATION:

1. Fill the “Andy” bottle 3/4 full with water.
2. Fill the “Ben” bottle 3/4 full with white vinegar.
3. Place one teaspoon of baking soda in each of the balloons and stretch it over the top of the bottles. Be careful not to mix the baking soda with the vinegar before you are ready for the experiment.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Say, “Let’s imagine these two bottles are two boys on the playground named Ben and Andy. Both boys go to church. Some of the other kids on the playground start teasing them, “Why do you go to church?” Now, both boys have a choice to make. Should they be brave and share about Jesus or do they join in on their peer’s negativity about church? Let’s see what happens.”
2. *(Lift Andy’s balloon so the baking soda mixes with the water.)* Andy loves going to church, but he’s afraid the kids will continue to tease him, so he says, “Yeah, I know. I only go because my mom makes me.” *(Let the balloon fall limp to the side of the bottle.)*



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INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED:

3. Say, “Colby was standing beside Andy listening to what he said. He was thinking about going to church too, but not anymore. Let’s see what Ben does.”

4. (*Lift Ben’s balloon so the baking soda will mix with the vinegar and begin to blow up the balloon.*) “I go to church because I want to walk with Jesus and learn about Him. Plus, it’s fun!” Ben said. He was afraid, too, but he chose to stand up for what he believes. Holly was standing nearby, listening. Holly said, “Ben, do you really learn about Jesus at church and have fun?” Ben answered, “Yeah, I love going! We hear true stories about Jesus and make stuff and play games.” Holly replied, “I’ve never been to church and I don’t know anything about Jesus. Do you think I could go with you sometime?”



5. Say, “Andy took the easy way out. He didn’t tell his true feelings about Jesus and now Colby isn’t interested in going to church. Ben did the right thing by telling the truth even when it was hard, and now Holly wants to go to church. Ben and Andy had to make a choice, and so do each of us. We need to decide who we will put first in our lives — God or the world.”

6. Read Matthew 6:24 and ask, “Who does God want us to serve?” (*Him*) Ask, “What might we put first, other than God, in our life?” (being popular, video games, possessions, etc.).

7. Pray. Ask God for the courage to follow Him and do what is right when sharing Jesus with our friends.

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