



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Now You See It, Now You Don't

Supplies

- 16-ounce clear plastic cups (1 per adult or teen leader)
- 9-ounce clear plastic cups (1 per adult or teen leader)
- vegetable oil (1¾ cup for adult or teen leader)
- paper plates
- several liquid measuring cups
- hand cleaner

Tip

- This experiment can be done with most clear objects of different sizes. Glass cylinders, Pyrex bowls, and beakers all work well. No matter what you use, test to make sure the smaller clear object fits inside the larger one and that it can't be seen when vegetable oil is added. Adjust vegetable oil if you choose to use clear containers other than what we've suggested in the supply list.

Watch the Cup

Say: **Today we're learning an exciting thing—that God is always with us! That can be hard to understand when we can't see God close to us the way we can see each other. Let's try a cool disappearing cup experiment to learn more about that. Just because you can't see something doesn't always mean it isn't there.**

- Form leader-led small groups, and give each group a large cup, a small cup, and a paper plate. Set out the rest of the supplies to share.
- First, allow group members to take turns nesting the smaller cup inside the larger cup and discussing how they can still see both cups.
- Have leaders each place the large cup on the paper plate to catch any vegetable oil spills.
- Have leaders share the bottle of vegetable oil and measuring cups to each measure and pour ¾ cup of vegetable oil into their large cups.
- With each leader supervising, invite kids to take turns slowly lowering the smaller cup into the large cup by pressing it down into the vegetable oil.



- Everyone else can watch the cups at eye level to see that the small cup sinks into the oil but can still be seen a little bit.
- Have each leader then measure 1 cup of vegetable oil.
- Then, while leaders hold the small cup inside the large cup with one hand, they'll pour the 1 cup of oil into the small cup. Once the oil's inside, they can let go of the small cup and let the weight of the oil hold it down in the large cup.
- Allow groups to observe their cups at eye level. The smaller cup will seem to disappear!



- Again, with close leader supervision, allow kids to take turns each carefully lifting the small cup partially out of the large cup to watch it reappear. Then they can lower it back into the vegetable oil and watch it disappear again.



- When kids have finished observing, have leaders place the cups of vegetable oil to the side so you can dispose of the oil as you like. Leaders can throw away paper plates, and help clean

kids' hands.

- Keep one set of cups with oil for a final demonstration.

Talk About It

Say: The small cup only *looked like* it disappeared inside the larger cup, but it hadn't gone away! Our eyes might tell us "we can't see God, so maybe God isn't here with us," but the truth is God is always with us, even when we can't see him.