

## Ages 3-6: "What Is That Bleating I Hear?"

Materials Needed  
*"What Is That Bleating I Hear" Cylinder*; stapler or tape; cotton balls; scraps of cardboard, brown paper, or brown paper bags; crayons, colored pencils or markers

Prepare in Advance  
 Print copies of *"What Is That Bleating I Hear" Cylinder* and gather the other supplies. You may wish to make a sample to show the children.

Children will decorate a flat picture of Saul and Samuel and the sheep and cows that Saul had not destroyed. Then they will form the picture into a cylinder.

1. Do you remember how Samuel knew that Saul was lying to him? (He could hear the bleating of the animals that Saul had kept against the Lord's command.)
2. These animals probably included cows and sheep. What sounds do those animals make?
3. If you heard those noises would you know that animals were near, even if you couldn't see them?
4. We're going to make a picture showing Saul and Samuel and the animals. At the end, we'll make it into a circle to show how Samuel could hear the animals but not see them.
5. Give each child a copy of the *"What Is That Bleating I Hear" Cylinder* with cotton wool and scraps of brown paper. Show them how to glue the cotton balls on the sheep and tear pieces of the paper to glue on the cows. Children can also color in Saul and Samuel and the flowers at the bottom of the picture.
6. Help children roll their pictures up and tape or staple the sides together to form a cylinder. (See picture above.)
7. Children can now turn the cylinder to see that the animals were close by, but Samuel could not see them.
8. Lead children in a simple retelling of the story:
  - Saul said, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord."
  - But Samuel could hear animals making noises! (Encourage the children to hold their cylinders so they only see Saul and Samuel and make the sounds of sheep and cows.)
  - So Samuel asked, "What is this bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" Because of the sounds of the animals, Samuel knew that Saul was lying.



### New Church Concept Teacher Background

"In the spiritual sense bearing false witness means persuading others that false ideas of faith are true and that evil ways of life are good, and that true ideas are false and good ways are evil.... [I]t means doing so deliberately, and not out of ignorance; that is, after knowing what truth and goodness are, but not before. For the Lord says: 'If you were blind, you would not be committing a sin; but now you say, We see, therefore your sin remains', John 9:41." *True Christian Religion* 322

### New Church Concept Teacher Background

"In the celestial sense bearing false witness means speaking blasphemy against the Lord and the Word, thus chasing truth out of the church. For the Lord is truth itself, and so equally is the Word. On the contrary, bearing witness in this sense means speaking the truth, and testimony means truth itself. That too is why the Ten Commandments are called the testimony. Because the Lord is truth itself, He says of Himself that He bears witness and is Himself His own witness." *True Christian Religion* 323

