

# RECYCLE FOR THE FUTURE

## SCRIPTURE:

*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

## MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) recycle bin
- (1) cardboard piece
- (1) plastic piece

## MAIN MESSAGE:

Recycling is sometimes an afterthought for many people. Why should we be wasting things when they can be used again and make the world better? Our actions and words cannot be wasted either. We need to use them correctly and not put out trash. We want our actions to be recycled so that the kingdom will grow and so that the world will be better.

**SONG:** "Footprints of Jesus"

## LESSON:

In my garage I have a fairly good sized recycle bin. There are two sides in it, one is for plastic and the other is for cardboard. If I did like I was supposed to I would make sure anything I was throwing out, could be used again if possible.

When a person recycles he or she is wanting for something that was used to be able to be used again. Why let anything go to waste? We want to make sure these things have new life so they can be passed on to the next generation of whoever will use it. To do this, the recyclables need to be put in the bins. If trash is put in the bins they will be useless and a waste of time.

Are we not very much the same in all of our actions? Whether we are parents at home, adults at work, or even children at school, our actions are being recycled. For example, as parents at home, our children watch every single thing we do. My seven-month-old daughter and four-year-old son watch me eat, listen to me talk, and see everything I do. Many times they will attempt to imitate what I do. I am like a recycle bin, and they are the ones that are giving those things new life. I want to give them things that are good that can be used again. I want to give them good recyclables and not give them trash.

Recycling can make a major difference in the world. It can make the world a cleaner place for possibly uncountable generations. We want to do the same for the church. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul was telling the Corinthian church the same thing. He was wanting them to recycle his actions. Paul was a great example of the type of servant and Christian that God wants us to be. We need to live what Paul was teaching here. We need to have things come out of our lives that can be passed on and given new life. When we put out bad things to recycle, we are essentially wasting the precious time that God has given us. Putting out good things to be recycled will further the kingdom and make a major difference for possibly uncountable generations.

**PRAYER:** Help us to live like Paul lived. Thank you for the example he was. Help us to live so that others can see Christ in us through our actions and our speech and so that Your kingdom may grow.