

Golden Apple Weaving Wheel

(Two page instruction sheet)

The Wheel Sections

Gold / God is Holy Black / Sin Red / Blood of Jesus White / Clean heart
Yellow / God's Light Green / Grow Blue / Coming Again (eighth notch is open)

Give the child the blank cardboard circle with a template glued on the top with a hole punched in the middle of the apple and 8 notches snipped on the edges where indicated by the dots on the template.

The template has an apple outline shape in the middle with words on the edge of the circle for the meanings of the colors with gold as #1.

Give them a yellow marker pen or crayon and ask them to color a shiny Golden Delicious apple while you hold up a gold yarn to begin presenting the Gospel weaving craft.

Ask: Have you ever eaten a whole apple? What kind of apple is your favorite? Have you ever seen a hole in an apple? What do you think made that hole? Our weaving wheel has a Golden Delicious apple in the middle of it. The golden color reminds me of the shining holiness of God. Holy is a different word than "hole," which is what you see in the middle of your weaving wheel. Holy means pure, good, altogether right and perfect. Holiness is like light where sin is like darkness.

When the child finishes coloring the apple, direct him/her to color the top section of the wheel the gold and begin sharing how this color reminds us of God's golden streets from the book of Revelation. It can be pointed out that God is eternal with no beginning or end just like the **circle** of the wheel in their hand. Follow the Wordless Book teaching for the gospel colors as the child continues to color each section while the teacher or demonstrator holds up the colored yarn to match the color crayon being used. (Guide at the top of this page.)

The tie-in for the apple is as follows: the dark color is like the apple seed which starts also in the darkness underground. The red is for the red splashes of color on the Golden Delicious apple blossom in the spring. The blossom is also white that reminds us of the clean color. The "clean heart" section is not colored, but left blank. The flesh of the apple is also a clean white color.

The yellow yarn is like the sun bringing light to the tree. The green represents the green leaves of the apple tree and the blue is for the blue sky that comes after the rain waters the apple tree.

Now that the child has colored all the sections, they are ready to load their wheel with the **24" yarns** of the same gospel colors that were used as they colored each section.

As the 7 yarns are held for them to see, talk about the message of good news that has gone through out the world just like the golden delicious apple has gone to every continent after its being discovered in WVA in 1914. (2014 is the 100th birthday of the Golden Delicious Apple being brought onto the market in the USA and abroad.)

Then ask what it would look like if this good news came into their life? Give them the set of yarns already tied together prepared to put in through the hole in their apple. Just like the worm that eats a hole in your apple, sin eats a whole in our soul. So the good news comes **right in the middle of the sin problem**, the nature that each of us has naturally. The Gospel deals with it our sin problem.

After the yarns are pulled through, review the gospel with the colors as you tell them to put the gold into the top notch, are they are **convinced in their mind of the truth about God?**

As they put the dark yarn in the next notch, are they **convicted in their heart about the truth of their sin** and their need for forgiveness?

As they put the red yarn in the next notch, are they **confident that the blood of Jesus is able** to wash away all their sin? (This yarn goes right in between the dark and red section.)

As they put the white yarn in the next notch, which is located in the red section, review I John 1:7. Ask if are they **confident that Jesus has forgiven them or has the ability to forgive them** of their guilt, taken their shame and placed them in His family? Jesus' love overcomes their fears.

The next color is the yellow yarn. This extra yarn is needed to make the weaving work well. It is also very appropriate at this point to say, "When we have a clean heart, the light of God can shine through us." So place the yellow yarn into the notch of the clear section.

As they put the green yarn in the next notch, ask if they are they **committed to obey** God's word and grow every day? At this point they know the colors and the message and now their apple is loaded with the good news of what happens when we live out the gospel every day, asking for forgiveness, thanking God, reading, obeying, telling others, keeping our eyes on Jesus.

Then you can tell them how to move the colors and start weaving just like starting to apply all those things listed to live out faith in Jesus and grow. The **colors of God's grace form a strong cord that remind us of the strength of God's truth as it is woven into our lives.**

Weaving sequence:

Hold the wheel with two hands having the empty notch toward your heart just like the good news is **heart-changing**. Then count the yarns with your right hand in their notches: 1, 2, 3. Take the third yarn out of its notch **from the back** of the wheel and place it into the empty notch. Turn the wheel **clockwise** until the next empty notch is facing you as before. Count the yarns again: 1, 2, 3. Take this third yarn out of its notch from the back of the wheel and place it into the empty notch. Turn the wheel clockwise and repeat. Every few turns take one hand to **free the yarns hanging below** the wheel so they will not get tangled as the weaving takes place. Every few turns gently tug the yarn on the back of the wheel and watch the cord grow. When the cord is as long as you want, release the yarns from the notches, tie them off and use the cord as a bracelet or zipper pull on a back pack or bookmark.

This Gospel Weaving Tool was developed by Lisa McCament and Christina Dillane cefkids.com

Share the Good News verses as you teach with this tool.

Example: When you bring a the dark yarn into the clean heart section talk about **I John 2:1-2 & I John 1:9**. When the white yarn goes to the blue section, it reminds us of **I John 3:3** that says whoever has the hope of Jesus' return in them purifies themselves. The hope of Jesus keeps us from sin. Then when the gold yarn comes down into the clean space, it pictures the light of Christ shining in the heart that He has made clean by His blood. **Matt. 5:14-16**. The green section always makes us think of **II Pet. 3:18** "Grow in the grace and knowledge..." Seeing the results of obeying Christ in our lives gives us confidence and personally confirms for us that what God says is true. Live out the Gospel everyday. Encourage the kids not to just look at their woven cord, but to remember the Good News behind all the colors.