

AGENT TRAINING

MASTER OF DISGUISE – Putting On The Life of Christ

WEEK

02

LESSON KEY VERSE:

“So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.” – 1 Corinthians 4:1

LESSON KEY WORD:

UNDERCOVER = “Under” + “Cover”

1. Working or done out of public sight; secret: *an undercover investigation.*
2. Engaged in spying or securing confidential information: *an undercover agent.*

These are the dictionary definitions of being undercover. For our purpose, we take the words apart. **Under** meaning to be positioned beneath, and **cover** which is something used to protect or conceal. As agents, we are always “under the cover” of God and hidden in His protection.

LESSON GOALS:

Most people think of a disguise as something that you wear at Halloween, or if you are going to do something wrong. Disguises are used to hide identities and conceal actions so that people don't see the person doing them. When we think of disguises, we think also of the devil that can appear as an angel of light to deceive many. In other words, we think of disguises as bad things used for evil purposes, but they are just tools to hide things that need to be hidden.

It is not always a bad thing to keep things hidden. There are many things that God keeps hidden until it is time for people to receive it. When Jesus was on earth, He became many things to different people based on what He did for them. To some, He was a miraculous Healer, a great Prophet and others a wise Teacher. Some guessed that He was the Anointed One, but the true mystery of Christ was not revealed until after His mission was complete. It was not until after His death and resurrection that people understood that His actions saved the entire world.

Similarly, we as agents will be using disguises to help us hide our identity as well. We are not hiding because we are doing anything wrong, but rather because we want others to see someone else through our actions. We want others to see Jesus in everything we say and do. This is why our disguises are so important.

OPENING EXERCISES

INTRODUCTION

Welcome, agents. This week, we have some very important training to complete. It is the basis of all the other weeks and will be very important that we get through it all. This week, you will even have an assignment or two that you will need to choose from. But we'll discuss that later. For now, let's get started!

BIBLE REFERENCE

Here are a few additional verses of the names of Jesus.

Matt. 23:8 - Rabbi, or Great Teacher

Matt. 26:63 - Jesus, the Son of God

Matt 26:64 - Jesus, the Son of Man

John 1:41 - Messiah, Anointed One

ADDITIONAL VERSES

Psalms 143:9 - Hiding ourselves in God for protection

I Corinthians 9:22 - Become all things for the gospel

2 Corinthians 11:14- Satan appears as an angel of light

Colossians 3:3 - We are hidden in Christ



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ITEMS NEEDED

For the **Opening Exercises** each week, the only thing that you will need is:

- A photocopy of the service order/announcements
- A selection of candy and/or prizes as a reward

ITEMS NEEDED

- Spy costume—trench coat, dark sunglasses, gloves, felt hat, and black scarf to cover the face completely
- Envelope containing the Message from Headquarters—Week 2



THE RULES

There are only 4 simple rules for our agent training. They are simple, and if you are the one boy and the one girl that follows them the best, you will win a prize (*show the children the prizes/candy available this week*). **Who remembers what the first rule is? (Select children to respond and coach them until they get it right). And the second? The third rule?**

Repeat the process until you get to the last rule. This the children will all say out loud together.

And the last rule is most important and can only be followed by obeying the other 3. We need to say it all together, and we need to REALLY mean it.

Have the children scream and shout “Have Fun” as long and as loud as you’d like. Once they are done, it is time for the announcements.

Here are the rules for your reference:

1. Sit up straight and tall.
2. Listen to whomever is speaking.
3. Respect others always.
4. HAVE FUN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MESSAGE FROM HQ

Now that we have the rules out of the way, there are some important things that Headquarters wants me to tell you know about...

Go through the announcements and let the children know about anything concerning them that is happening in the church.

And finally, speaking of Headquarters, did anyone get the message from Headquarters this week? (Ask the other leaders who should respond that they thought that someone else had them).

Finally, have the “spy” enter carrying the envelope. His job is to bring in the message and place it on the front table then leave without saying a word or being seen by the leaders. Make sure that whoever plays the spy has a black or dark scarf to conceal the face.

As the spy enters, he should try to hide behind chairs, crawl across the floor between rows, and go anywhere that they can be deliberately be seen by the children, but not the leaders. All the leaders need to pretend not to see what is going on and walk away from wherever the spy is, even if the children keep pointing it out. Once the message is on the table, continue...

Oh, look up here. The message arrived. I wonder how it got here without any of us noticing? Hmm. They must have sent Agent J. He’s the best. No one ever sees him when He’s on a mission. I want to be like Him someday.

[Read the Message from Headquarters – Week 2 aloud.]

PRAISE & WORSHIP

If you are using the **Supernatural** worship DVD from Hillsong Music, I would use Worship Set 2 containing **Supernatural**, **Get It Started** and **You Are All I Need**.

If you are choosing to use your own music or a have live music, try to arrange a worship set with a theme around being all we can for God. Remember that your set should start out with high-energy praise, then transitions to a moderate praise and finally ends with a more intimate worship selection.

OPENING PRAYER TIME

Allow the children to share needs as briefly as possible. Record the ones that are something beyond healing for minor boo-boos. *(Although, these are good to remember and check in with the kids later in the week because they reinforce genuine concern for each child.)*

Then pray for each need. You can also share the responsibility by asking either individual leaders, or some of the other children to pray for a specific need. Once all the needs are covered, pray for the service.

LEADER'S NOTE

To help the children become more involved in the ministry, you should select volunteers to pray for some of the prayer needs. These volunteers need to take prayer seriously and not be afraid to pray out loud. In time, many of the children will want to be a part as well. As you share praise reports and discuss answered prayer, remind the children that they had a part in the answers through praying. This will help to build their faith and show them the power of prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, we are here to learn how to become better agents for you. As we listen, help us to hear the words that you are telling us and learn how to put these words into practice. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

OFFERING LESSON

The object lesson is a bit like a game show, but with a message. By the end, the children will see that getting what you want is not always a good thing.

LESSON

For this next exercise, I will need 4 volunteers. I will be needing 2 boys and 2 girls who think they know the value of money. *(Select the volunteers and have them come to the front. You may use less volunteers if you'd like.)*

I will be giving you 10 Semolians that you will be able to use during our exercise. I want you to hold onto them for now. Remember that these are VERY VALUABLE! You will get a chance to use these in just a minute.

Now I have some things that you get a chance to use your items on... WHAT A VALUE! *(Start pulling out all the "prizes" and place them in a highly visible place, including the offering plate somewhere in the middle of the mixture of containers.)*

(OPTIONAL—If you have Game Show sounding music, like the "Price Is Right" or others, use it as you are setting up. If not, play other high-energy music, preferably without words, in the background. The music needs to play only as you are setting up. It will then be played at the end of the "show".)

In your hands, each of you has a 10 Semolian bill. I am going to give each of you a chance to take your bill and trade it for what you think is the most valuable item. Here is how we play, you *(Select the first volunteer at random) are going to go up there and select one of the containers that you think has the greatest value. You are then able to buy it for \$10 Semolians. Go ahead and choose one, but don't open it. You will all do that together once everyone has a prize. (Allow volunteer one to select the first container).*

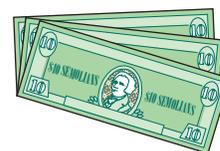
(To the audience) Does everyone think that this is the most valuable? (Allow responses). Some agree, some don't. Well, we'll find out in a little while. This is so exciting!



Prayer Sheets can be printed from the Resource CD or copied from the copy masters found in this binder.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Fake money (print the "Semolians" from the Resource CD and trimmed to size)



- Various containers—colorful gift bags, party boxes, brown paper bags, shipping container—all with some junk item inside (one for each volunteer)
- An offering plate with a dollar folded and taped underneath
- PowerPoint Title Slide for "What A Value!"
- High-energy music (or game show theme music) without words



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Okay, now it's time for the next volunteer. (Select a boy if the first was a girl, or vice versa). You have your chance to select, but there is one thing. If you think that this (Point to the container the first volunteer is holding) is the most valuable, you can take it from him and give him your \$10 Semolians, and he gets to select a new one from the table. (Allow the second volunteer to choose the most valuable. If he or she takes the first box, allow the first volunteer time to select a new one before continuing to the third volunteer).

Continue along with these guidelines until everyone has selected a prize. Most likely, no one will select the offering plate.

(To the volunteers) Now, you all have your prizes, correct? (Allow responses). And you are fairly certain that what you selected is the most valuable thing? (Again allow them to respond). Okay, well then, let's see what you won—open your prizes. (Allow each child to open the container and pull out what's inside).

Wow, all this stuff is not really what you were hoping for, is it? Hmm. Well, that is how it goes when you play, WHAT A VALUE. (Play the music again and have the volunteers take a seat. Take the junk, boxes and stuff off as the music plays).

Well, wasn't that fun... but let me explain. Each of you was given a choice of how to spend something of value. You chose what you thought was valuable because it was all dressed up, but didn't you hear the message from Headquarters about disguises? Sometimes, we need to really look at what is in front of us to know what is most valuable.

Here is the real prize (Take the offering plate and show it to the children). Just look under here, (Turn it over to reveal the dollar). This is what came with the offering plate. If we put our money in God's hands, even though we cannot see Him, He promises to take it and multiply it to help others. He also promises to make sure that we have everything that we need. In this case, a dollar that we can do whatever we want with it. For me, I'm putting it in the offering plate. What are you going to do? Use it on colorful boxes of junk, or give it to God and see what He does with it?

Collect the offering as the next leader prepares for the Memory Verse Activity.



MEMORY VERSE

This exercise gives the children a head-start on memorizing this week's key verse.

KEY VERSE

1 Corinthians 4:1—So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

LESSON – MEMORY VERSE MIX-UP

Select several volunteers from both the boys and the girls side to participate in this week's activity. Have each of them sit on the floor a little ways from each other with an open area just in front of each child. Give them each a set of pieces and have them turn all the pieces face down on the floor in random order. Have a leader go to each one and make sure that they are random and properly placed.

At the signal, the each volunteer will need to turn the pieces over and assemble the key verse as quickly as possible. Once the puzzle is complete, the volunteer should stand and put a hand in the air quietly.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Memory Verse sheet printed on sheets of paper and cut into puzzle pieces
- Stopwatch and note pad with pencil to record team times



Once the last person has completed the puzzle, have a child read the verse aloud and show it on the overhead screen. Then have all the children read the verse aloud several times.

If time allows, you can select additional volunteers and play another round or two. Take the times per team and combine them. The team with the lowest combined time (or average time, if you'd prefer) wins the game.

GROUP ACTIVITY/GAME

This week's group activity was the Offering Lesson/Game Show. To keep things flowing, we moved additional group games and activities at the end of the lesson under the Closing Activities.

MISSION TRAINING

Now that you have completed two high-energy activities—offering lesson and memory verse game—have the children sit down quietly for the lesson. During this time, the children need to pay attention and be alert.

LESSON

It's time that we got down to business. I have my training materials from Headquarters right here. As the letter from our Director stated, we need to make sure that you know the basics so that you are ready to do your assignments. This week's training is all about disguises. But, before we start, let's give you a little background...

DON'T TRUST WHAT YOU SEE

Do you remember our Offering Lesson? Where everyone thought that the things that were the most important were the ones that were wrapped the best? This is an important lesson for all of you as agents. It is not a surprise that you all went for the most colorful or the largest package, because it is the way that we have been taught. Most people think that if it's the biggest, the most colorful, or even cost the most that it is the greatest value.

This is a lie. The things that give value are the things that have true meaning. We live in a real world filled with stuff, but this is not really who we were created to be. We were created to be God's children. We were created to live eternally with Him and this world was created to be a perfect home for us all. But it was Satan that messed that all up.

He was the first to put on a disguise and hide his identity, and his intentions which were to destroy all that God created. He used Eve's own eyes to trick her into thinking that the forbidden fruit was more valuable than eternal life and living with God. She believed the lie based on what she saw. Then Adam did the same. They lost everything because they let their eyes tell them that a lie was truth.

It is our heart and our faith that we need to hold to at all times. It doesn't matter what people say, or how things look. We need to trust God and do what we know is right. Remember what the Bible tells us, Satan can appear as an angel of light to deceive many. That means that just because things look good, that doesn't make them good. Always pray, believe and trust God to see you through.



WHY DO WE HIDE?

You may think that disguises are bad things. They are used for criminals to hide what they are doing so they don't get caught. That is partially true, but in comic books and movies, superheroes do the same thing. They put on a mask to hide who they are and then the costume becomes something that they can "put on" and become to fight against evil. Many times, it is the costume that people see, but they never know who is really inside it.

Just like superheroes, there are times that we need to make sure that people are not looking at us. We don't want to get the credit for our actions, or the ones we did it for miss the point. We are agents of God. That means that when we are going on a mission, we are going in Jesus' Name. So everything that we do needs to show Jesus.

If you are still not sure about this, let's talk about Jesus when He was here on earth. He came as a baby and grew up as a child, just like each of you. God has promised that there would be a Savior born many hundreds of years before, but no one knew when it would actually happen. God kept that hidden. God also kept the real mission that Jesus was on hidden.

As Jesus was going from place to place, He taught the people about God's kingdom, His forgiveness and of His plan to restore. He also performed many signs and miracles. What people saw when they looked at Jesus was not always the Savior, but a great Teacher, a miraculous Healer, or even a gifted Prophet that spoke the words of God. But people were not able to see who He really was.

Wherever Jesus went and whatever He did, He continually pointed people back to the Father and told them that they needed to look on Him for their hope. He explained that he was only the messenger, a servant who was sent to bring the message and to deliver people from sin. He never explained it clearly, but kept the details hidden so that no one knew what was going on.

Even the devil was not able to see or understand what Jesus was doing. If he had, he never would have crucified Jesus. It was this hidden identity and undercover mission that allowed God's plan to be fulfilled and through it, the devil was defeated and Jesus became our Saviour and Lord.

THE REASON FOR DISGUISES

Just like Jesus, we are going to be sent to many places to do many different things. At each place, there is someone with a need. As we go to help meet the need, we do not want these people thanking us, or rewarding us for our help. We want them to understand that, like Jesus, we are only doing what we have been taught to do by God. They need to give thanks to Him and if they want to reward someone, give it to another who has a need and share the blessing that God gave them.

Jesus, who was the Son of God, chose to become a man and a servant. He was there at the time of creation, yet chose to put on this "disguise" so that He could help others see God. If we really want to be agents of God, we need to put on that same attitude.

The truth is that our disguises are not clothing and costumes. They are attitudes and thoughts. They are the way that we look at a mission. We need to make sure that as we go on a specific mission, we think of Jesus and how He would feel. Ask yourself, "how would Jesus have felt about doing this" and then try to feel and think the same. Pray this before every mission and God will make sure that you have what you need to be successful.



PUTTING ON CHRIST

In the Bible, Paul wrote in His letters about “putting on Christ”. It is the act of changing our hearts and our thoughts so that they are more like Jesus. His attitude was one of humility, and He always put the needs of others far above His own. This is the only disguise that we will ever need.

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

This week, we learned why disguises are so important to an agent. In the coming training weeks, we will be learning more about specific disguises that we can use to truly help other people.

But before we can “put on Christ” we need to make sure that we really **KNOW** who Jesus is. If there is anyone here that has never accepted Jesus as his or her personal Savior, we need to pray for that first. If you have doubts or questions about if you have or not, then we can still pray and talk with you to make sure that you know that Jesus is with you.

Pray with the children together so that they are assured of their salvation. (See section in the front on “Leading Children to Christ” if you need help explaining the A-B-C-D method of knowing your salvation.)

Now that we have all prayed together that Jesus is in our hearts, let’s pray that as we go through this new week, that we will learn more about how to put on Jesus.

Dear Lord, we need you to help us remember all that we learned. We learned about disguises and why they are important. We learned that the devil likes to hide things from us or make things look better than they are to deceive us. As we learned that You came to earth with a special hidden mission to save us all.

Lord Jesus, we ask that through this coming week, you would help us to better understand all that it means to “put on Christ” and to become more like You. We want to be used by You and help others see God. We know that you will be with us always, and we thank you for your promise. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

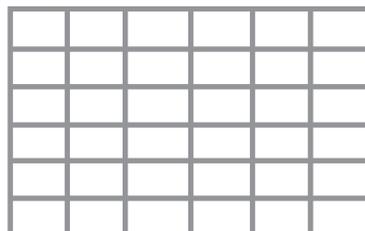
CLOSING ACTIVITIES/GAMES

MATCH-UP MANIA

This simple matching game is played as a competition for points. Each round, more images are added to the mix, as well as a few penalty images.

PREPARATION

Before class, print up 2 copies of all the images for the Match-up Mania. Next, prepare the game grid on the floor before class starts. (This will save class time and build curiosity when the children arrive.) You will need it to have 36 squares that are slightly larger than a letter-sized piece of paper. A 6x6 grid works the best and you can place all the actual matches out on the floor and use them as a guide when making down the game grid. Use masking tape on the floor to create the grid, and you are ready to play.



ITEMS NEEDED

- Color prints of the Match-up Mania Game images
- Masking Tape
- Large open area of floor space with room around it for all the children to see it well



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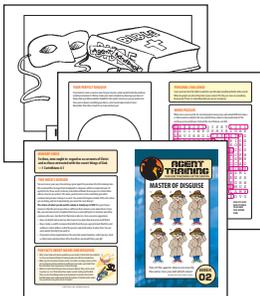


ITEMS NEEDED

- 2 laundry baskets
- Old clothes and simple props that can be put together as part of a disguise
- 3x5 Index Cards, with name of disguise and clothing articles needed to make it.
- Large open game area for a relay

LEADER'S NOTE

Don't forget the mission brief activity sheets for this week. Make sure to assign a leader at the door to make sure each child gets one before they leave for the day.



Activity Sheets for Week 2 can be found on the Resource CD.

HOW TO PLAY

The object of the game is simple. The team that finds the most matches on the board wins the game.

Once the closing prayer is over, move chairs out of the way to allow as large of a viewing area as possible. Then gather the children around the game board, if your group size allows.

For the first round, place between 16-20 images (8 to 10 matches) face down on the board in random order. Select a volunteer from either team to start, or toss a coin to determine a winning team. The first child from the winning team needs to then select two papers to try to find the match. If found, then the team continues to guess; if not, the next guess goes to the opposite team. The team that finds the most matches wins each round.

As each round progresses, make it more challenging by adding more images. Use 16-20 images for round 1, 20-24 images for round 2, 24-30 for round 3. For round 4, use all the images and have fun!

Please note: You can add the "Find the Match or Lose a Turn" images during any of the rounds. Whoever uncovers one of these must find the match immediately or the team forfeits their turn to the other team.

DISGUISE RELAY

Here's a great way to use old clothes and props in a fun game.

PREPARATION

Gather together 3 or 4 articles of clothing that would be used to create a disguise. For instance, if you wanted to create a butler disguise, you would need a serving tray, a hand towel, a suit jacket of some sort and possibly a vase with a silk flower to be placed on the tray. For a scuba diver disguise, you would need a mask, flippers, snorkel and for fun, possibly an inflatable ring.

Write the articles needed for each disguise on 3" x 5" cards with the name of the disguise above. (For disguise topics, look at some of the future lessons, then find things around the house or cheap items from a dollar store that you can use.) These will become the "playing cards" for the relay.

HOW TO PLAY

Divide the children into teams. You will need 4 people per round per team. One will need to be the dress-up agent. The rest of the team will be runners to gather the disguise pieces. Only one team plays at a time, so the other team should be planning a strategy for when it's their turn.

At the start of each round, only one team goes at a time. Someone on the team needs to select a card and read it aloud. This is the disguise that they will need to complete and the pieces of clothing mentioned will all need to be found to complete the disguise.

At the signal, one by one, each team member needs to run to the baskets and find only one article of clothing needed to complete the disguise. Once found, it needs to be run back to the dress-up agent who needs to put it on. Use a stopwatch to track the time it takes to complete the disguise. Then return all the clothing pieces to the baskets and reset for the next team that needs to select and complete their disguise.

Play as many rounds as time allows. The team with the fastest total score wins.