Practical Joke Illustrations

Call It By Name

Set up two tables that are covered with table clothes that hang all the way to the ground. Between the two tables, leave enough room for a person on their knees to stick up his head. Cut a hole in the tablecloth for this. Then set a couple of items on both sides of the person's head and cover them with buckets. You will also need a bucket to the cover the person's head. All of this, including the hidden person beneath needs to be in place before students come into the room, so that it just looks like a number of buckets, upside down on a long table. Once the students are seated, choose three volunteers. Tell them that you are going to send them out of the room and bring them in one at a time. When you say go, they will lift up one bucket at a time, as fast as they can, and call out the object by name before moving to the next bucket—i.e., "Ball!" "Cup!", etc. The fastest time wins. Of course, what they don't know is that the third or fourth item down the table is actually a person. When they lift this bucket, the person beneath needs to yell or make some noise. It's a shock and makes for great video footage. However, there's one more twist: In advance, let the third person know what is happening and have a pie ready so that when they lift up the bucket, they can pie-in-the-face, the person who has been scaring the others.

Spiritual Application: What goes around, comes around. What you put out will eventually come back to you. If you play jokes on other, eventually they'll play jokes on you. If you're mean to others, eventually they'll probably be mean to you. You will reap what you sow and the same is true with God and your life. See and discuss Galatians 6:7.