

Panic Lesson 50



EVANGELISM

Anything to photocopy? Yes

Mr. Subliminal (2 copies)

Here are the parts of this lesson:

- ♦ **Shoe Scramble** *mixer*
- ♦ **Mr. Subliminal** *skit*
- ♦ **Commercial Religion** *create a skit; discussion starter*

MIXER

SHOE SCRAMBLE

All players remove their shoes and mix them up in a big pile. Divide the group in half. One half of the players rush to the pile, locate a matching pair of shoes, and find the owner of the shoes. The owner becomes that person's partner and must find his partner's shoes based on his partner's description. The first pair to put on their shoes wins.

SKIT

MR. SUBLIMINAL

Evangelistic Sketch

Body language, back masking, subliminal advertising. It seems we can never be certain that what we thought we heard was the message we were being exposed to. Could that work for evangelistic outreach as well? This spoof helps us imagine what it might be like to lead someone to Christ using subliminal evangelism. The method may be humorous, but the message is the gospel. *James West*

DISCUSSION STARTER

COMMERCIAL RELIGION

There is no doubt that commercials influence every aspect of our daily lives so they can be an effective media technique. There are some dangers, however:

- Commercials tend to entertain rather than inform.
- Commercials tend to consolidate reality, simplify reality into very black and white categories.
- Commercials tend to exaggerate, manipulate.
- Commercials tend to use symbols.

There are many other dangers when it comes to commercials and it is very important that a youth group not accept commercials as valid communication devices and feel that by just changing one word, that the entire meaning will change. For example, the phrase, "Coke is it," changed to "Christ is it." True, statements like that are catchy, but the question is, is the new statement true? And in what ways is it true?

But because most people hear commercials all the time, it can be a lot of fun to allow your youth group to make some commercials for God, Christ, or the church by adapting popular commercials, or by creating entirely new ones. Divide your youth group (if possible) into small groups and give the groups a few minutes to create their own commercials around whatever theme you give them. Give the kids enough time to practice and gather together whatever props they need. Then have the groups present their ideas to each other one at a time. You might tell the group something like this: "You have been given 60 seconds (or 30 seconds) on national prime time television. Create and produce a commercial for God, Jesus, or the church. Millions of people will see it. What kind of spot would you create?" *Nancy Fravel*



Mister Subliminal

Evangelistic

CAST

- Mr. Subliminal
- Guy

MR. SUBLIMINAL says everything in brackets quickly, in monotone voice under his breath, but loudly and clearly enough for the audience to hear.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Hey, how are ya?

GUY: Oh, things couldn't be better. I'm doing just great!

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Well [no, you're not] that's good to hear [you're a mess].

GUY: *(suddenly starts to act depressed)* Well, actually, I'm not doing that great. For some reason it just seems like my life is in such a *(pause)* mess.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Really, [something's missing] what do you mean? [something's missing]

GUY: Lately I just feel like *(pause)* something's missing in my life.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: I wonder [it's Jesus] if maybe you just [it's Jesus] need a good friend.

GUY: Well, yes and no. For some reason, I feel like I need Jesus. That's weird, I've never felt that way until now.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: So you think you need Jesus. [He's the answer] Do you think he can solve your problems? [He's the answer]

GUY: Yeah, I know that Jesus is the answer.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Well, do you [admit you're a sinner] know how to accept Christ as your personal Savior? [admit you're a sinner]

GUY: Not really, but I feel so guilty for all the sin in my life, and I've tried everything to forget my problems and the guilt in my life. I've tried fast cars, a nice house on the lake, beautiful women, but when the fun was over I still didn't feel at peace.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Wow, [he forgives] that does sound like a problem. [he forgives]

GUY: I bet if I ask Christ he'll forgive me, but I just can't bring myself to ask him.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Well, [ask him] that's a decision you need to make on your own. [ask him]

GUY: You know, I think I'll ask him, but how do I know he'll forgive me?

MR. SUBLIMINAL: That's a tough question. [believe he died and rose again] I mean, [he died for your sins] I know some of the things you've done. [He came to save the sinner] If I were him, [believe he's God] I sure wouldn't forgive you. [He's God]

GUY: God is a God of love and he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sin and he rose again. Thank you, God. I just wonder if now I can have a relationship with Christ. I mean what do I have to do?

MR. SUBLIMINAL: Why are you asking me? [you did it] I mean, do I look like a theologian? [you're born again]

GUY: You know, I feel different already, as if I'm already a Christian, you know, born again! I admitted I was a sinner, I asked Christ to forgive me, and I feel he's done that, and I believe that he died on the cross for my sins and I know he is God and Lord of my life. I feel as if I've been...born again.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: That's great.

GUY: Well, I need to be going. I didn't mean to dump all my problems on you.

MR. SUBLIMINAL: That's okay. What are friends for? I'm only sorry I couldn't be of more assistance. *(looks at crowd and raises his eyebrows as lights fade)*

END