

# Cat Tails



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Cat-Tail's are a common, edible plant. They bear the familiar seed spikes known as “cat-tails”. The plants grow in moist to wet soil or shallow water, and spread by means of rhizomes to form dense stands. Some species will tolerate brackish water. Cat-tails are sometimes cultivated as ornamentals. Other uses include wildlife cover and food, human food, stems for weaving material, and seed floss for stuffing pillows and other articles.

Another plant, highly poisonous, that looks just like the Cat-Tail grows in the same areas. The only way to tell them apart is to wait for the cat-tail to appear at the top of the stock. Only then can you be sure you're harvesting the correct plant.

# Spotting Counterfeits

Matthew 7:15-21 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

2Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

2Corinthians 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2Peter 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.

**Saved by Grace alone, by faith alone.**

## False Teachers:

In Matthew 7:15 Jesus warns us to \_\_\_\_\_ because they can look deceptively like \_\_\_\_\_ but really are \_\_\_\_\_. We can’t even determine they’re authenticity by their profession of Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_.

We can recognize them by their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Fruit: Something produced out of itself. A harvest, product, accomplishment, or result.**

Even many trusted pastors are just \_\_\_\_\_ as apostles of Christ.  
(2 Corinthians 11:13)

Should we be surprised? \_\_\_\_\_

The only way we’d really know is if we recognized that they were teaching a \_\_\_\_\_ gospel than Jesus taught himself.  
(2 Corinthians 11:4)

## **Do you know the Gospel beyond a shadow of a doubt?**

False teachers will use God’s word like Satan did in Genesis 3:1. They will have churches and look the same as \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 Corinthians 11:15)

The pastors preach about Jesus, but, he will be a Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ than the Jesus of the Gospel.  
(2 Corinthians 11:4)

First Jesus, then Paul and Peter, give warnings about false prophets (preachers). What are the bad things Peter says these false teachers will do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Discuss the types of teaching you hear today that are false teaching (heresies):  
Draw parallels between real and counterfeit Gospels:  
How would you test what you hear?

# Lesson Plan: Spotting Counterfeits

## The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is alert kids to the fact that false teachers exist. They should not take for granted that what every “Christian” teacher, preacher, or speaker says is automatically true simply because they are “Christian”. They need to become good judges of what they hear.

## Pre-Lesson Activity:

Contact a local banker. If you’re lucky it may be someone from your church. Ask them if they’ll do a quick presentation about counterfeit money to your class. If not, they might be willing to supply you with a chart that explains what to look for. Make sure the kids are impressed with the tiny details that make money “real” or “fake”. Like the red white and blue threads in the paper. Note that if even one tiny detail is missing (no blue threads for instance) or wrong (no threads at all) it’s fake. It came from a source other than the government and it is not supported by the government. It looks like real money but it’s not.

## Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you’d like to bring up.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

**Note:** When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

The last few questions are open very open-ended. The depth of your discussion will vary depending on the ages of the kids, and your knowledge of “false gospels” currently being expounded.

## Summary:

Review the questions and answers quickly.

## Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer request for the next week.