
Activity Time

The Mote & the Beam

Description: Use this object lesson about the mote & the beam to reinforce the lesson Jesus taught about not judging others.

What you need: ■ A copy of “The Mote & the Beam” activity (artwork included), scissors, tape.

Preparation:

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Place the paper “mote” in the boy’s eye with a small piece of tape.
3. Follow directions to assemble the beam.

Activity: **Read:** 3 Nephi 14: 3-5 “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother: Let me pull the mote out of thine eye—and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou a hypocrite, first cast the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”

Ask: What is a mote? (A tiny piece of a substance: the tiniest mote of sawdust. A mote in someone’s eye is a fault in that person that is less serious than the fault of someone who is judging them unrighteously.)

Ask: What is a beam? (A long sturdy piece of squared timber. A beam in someone’s eye is a fault that is greater than the fault they find in someone else.)

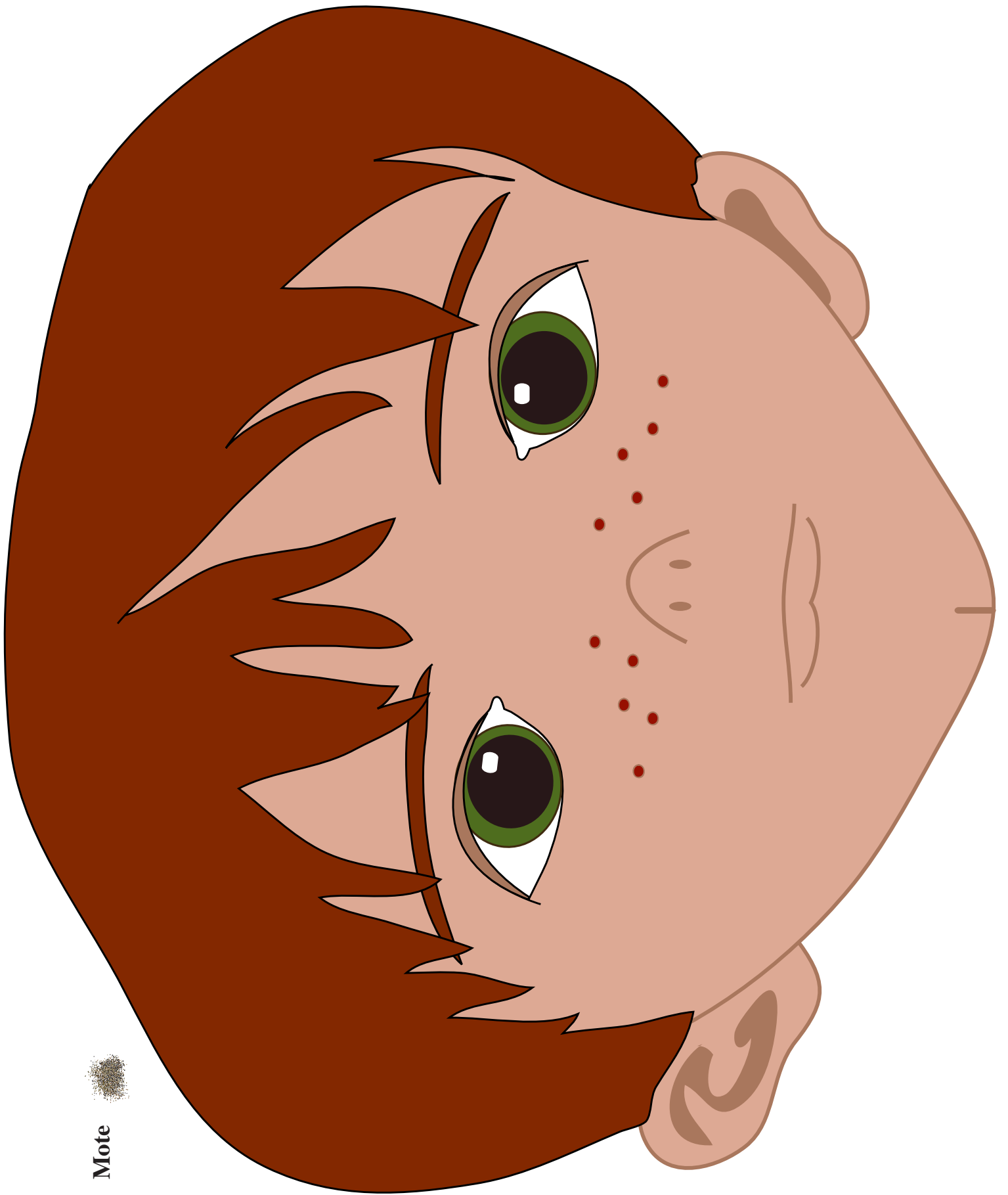
Ask: Have you ever gotten a small piece of dust or something in your eye? Did it need to be removed?

Explain: Jesus knew that sometimes we would need help and sometimes we need to help others overcome faults, just like the dust needed to be removed from our eye. (Remove the paper “mote” from the boy’s eye.)

Ask: But if we have a beam in our eye (hold the paper “beam” up to your eye) can we remove the mote? (Tape the face on the wall. Put the paper “mote” back in the boy’s eye. Without standing sideways, have each family member try to pull the paper “mote” out of the eye while holding the paper “beam” up to their eye.)

Ask: Did we look foolish trying to take the mote out of the boy’s eye while a beam was in our own eye?

Explain: It is just as foolish to judge other’s faults unrighteously while attempting to cover up or hide our own faults. Let us not be foolish! Instead let us be humble and recognize and work on overcoming our own faults. Then, with love and compassion, we can help others.



Mote

Cut on dotted lines.
Fold on solid lines.
Tape sections together.

