

Test of Faith

THE RAT TRAP LESSON

Make sure the right spring on your trap is dismantled and not putting any tension on the trap (see photo #1). Start out by asking your crowd what you are holding. Someone will say a rat trap. As you begin to set the trap ask the crowd if they watch cartoons. Then ask which part of the rat gets caught in the trap in cartoons. Someone will say his tail. You can respond by saying, *"That's right, but in real life that's not what happens. When you put a piece of cheese or some peanut butter in the trap the rat comes along, thinks he's getting a free meal, puts his head in the trap, the lever whacks him and"* (At this point, you can add as much detail about what happens to the rat as you think appropriate!!!)



PHOTO # 1

At this time set your trap off. (For your safety as well as the crowd, use something that won't break like a piece of rope, belt, paint stirring stick, etc). Now remove this item from the trap. With the top surface of the trap facing you, secretly release the **other** spring, using your thumb as shown in photo #1, or your thumb and forefinger of the opposite hand. There should now be no tension on the lever. Pull the lever back and set the trap as in the beginning, only this time you will use your thumb for tension under the lever in place of the spring (see photo #2).



PHOTO # 2

Now ask for a volunteer. When the individual comes forward, ask if they trust you. Then, ask if they trust you enough to protect them from any harm even though you are going to have them place their finger in the trap in order to set it off. Say something like, *"I know something about this trap*

that you don't. Do you trust me enough to believe what I say, or is your trust in what you think is true?" This person may say no, if so, thank them for stepping forward and then ask for another volunteer. Continue to ask if they will trust in what you know to be true or what they think is true. Someone will eventually trust you enough to set the trap off and be relieved that no harm came to them! As the volunteer walks away, ask the crowd to give them a round of applause.

Now, secretly set the spring back on the lever and snap it a few times just to get their attention. Quickly transition into the spiritual application by saying something like, *"Some people are trusting in what they think is true to get them to Heaven and not what God says is true in the Bible about how we get to Heaven. The Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Prov. 14:12), Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." (John 14:6) You must believe what the Bible says by faith even when it doesn't feel right, just like putting your finger in a rat trap when it doesn't feel right. God cannot lie; we can always trust what He says."*

At this point, present the Gospel message giving everyone an opportunity to trust in Jesus as Savior.

NOTE: If at any time during the lesson while your thumb is acting as the tension for the lever, the bar may slip off (this has happened to us many times). **Don't panic.** Immediately reset the trap saying something like, *"Wow, that was close."* 99% of the time, no one will even notice what happened, and if they do, the "Wow, that was close" comment will suffice!

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