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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language:
(Sing A Song Of Christians: Lessons IIIA,
IIIB, IIIC)

By God And Richie Heinlein
(In God I Trust And Write)

Series: Popeye, TaleSpin, Smurfs, And
Tiny Toon Adventures, Cartoon Network
Skits

Episodes: It's The Natural Thing To Do
(Popeye), Destiny Rides Again (TaleSpin),
Chaser's Anonymous, (Cartoon Network
Skits) Lure Of The Orb (Smurfs), To Bleep
Or Not To Bleep (Tiny Toon Adventures)

Topic: Habits And Idols

A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language:
(Sing A Song Of Christians: Lesson IIIA)—
Definition Of An Idol)

I) Opening Prayer

II) Discussion: In this three part lesson series we are going to discuss the subject of idolatry. This is the worship of an idol. The cartoon characters in this lesson series are of a progressive nature meaning all characters (new or not) build on each other. The second and third part characters continue the story of someone who has one of these idols to deal with. New characters portray the

progress of the old ones. What is your definition of an idol? Why is this your definition of an idol?

III) Cartoon Show: I will now show a Popeye short called “It’s The Natural Thing To Do”. At the end of this cartoon, we’ll have an opening Bible Study and a small discussion. This will give a good basis for discussion later.

IV) Bible Study I: Exodus 20: 2-3

V) Analysis And Discussion I: First, I want you to see the fan letter telegram as the God

character in this section of our lesson. This telegram asks for Popeye, Olive, and, Bluto to act civilized. Popeye and Bluto have used each other for a punching bag for years now.

This fan letter symbolizes God's wish for them to fight their nature and act more like

Him. What do you think it would be like to get a letter from God asking you to do

something like this: to fight nature and be what you are not, but what you should be?

Human nature is like this cartoon and is an idol to be dealt with and destroyed. Human

nature, like many other things is vying for your servitude.

VI) Bible Study II: Proverbs 26: 11, I Peter 1: 13-25

VII) Analysis and Discussion II: As stated above the fan letter represents God.

Looking at this from a spiritual point of view, why do you think Popeye, Olive, and Bluto failed in their quest to not fight?

Olive Oyl tore the etiquette book in two and said What A Quack!! What A Joke!! Why?

Do think this is figurative of a lot of people

today and the Bible, for the Bible is God's
etiquette book? Looks like they are trying to
break their nature under their own steam.

Let's analyze a little more with some more
clips.

VIII) Clip Show: **Destiny Rides Again** (clip
I)

IX) Analysis and Discussion III: In our first
clip, we see that Baloo is called the "**Great
Llama**". This is symbolic of everyone that
is called by God. The idol in the first two
clips of **Destiny Rides Again** represents

sinful human nature. Everyone in the world is created to know and worship God. This means doing what Baloo is trying to do (destroy the Idol Of Doom: Storm And Fire) because it is his destiny. We are all called by God to cast down and destroy our idols. We see however that Baloo is very frustrated because he can't. Knowing this and from a spiritual perspective, why is he failing miserably? The idol keeps coming back like a bad habit and won't be destroyed so easily. What is missing here? If you

called your idol “sweetheart”, wouldn’t it
want to come back to you too?

X) Play **Destiny Rides Again** (Clip II)

XI) Symbols Of Clip II: In this second clip,

I want everyone to remember the old lady

from the first clip. She symbolizes God.

Second, I want everyone to pay attention to

the bracelet Baloo is wearing. This is

another God character. It also represents

Baloo’s faith at this time. It protects Baloo

when he is in big trouble. God protects his

own from spiritual harm when we are in big trouble too.

XII) Bible Study III: Psalms 31

XIII) Analysis And Discussion IV: Those who earnestly seek help from God when they are in big trouble a lot of times will get the help that they need. However they need to remember God in the good times and the bad, not just the bad. Baloo is OK now, however, it looks like he forgets God's goodness because he starts talking to the idol and uses it. In a spiritual context, why

would Baloo stoop to use the idol? He obviously hasn't learned his lesson. This idol is bad news. Talking to this idol (even though he got his wish) is praying to something evil. So our villain and our good guy take turns shooting curses at each other.

What is wrong here?

XIV) Bible Study IV: I Peter 3: 8-12,

Romans 7: 7-25

XV) Discussion: [Linking to this clip](#), what does this scripture mean to you?

XVI) Clip Show: I am going to show something from Cartoon Network Skits called *Chaser's Anonymous*.

XVII) Analysis And Discussion V: These cartoon characters are trying to stop their nature of chasing. When temptation struck, they were told to stay strong. Is this possible? How would you react to this temptation if you were trying to stay strong? Would you admit there was an idol in your life if you have one, or are you like Sylvester and in denial about your weakness

to one? In a nutshell an idol is anything that you put before the true God. We have seen the definition of an idol of human nature.

Have our characters found God yet? Do you think our cartoon characters in these clips will ever find the way to cast down and destroy their habits and idols? In other words will they ever find God and in faith give Him everything? I'll leave you with that thought and we will find out together, for the next sections build on this one. Next

time, we are discussing addictions (another kind of idol). This is one thing that idols do.

XVIII) Closing Prayer