

## Object Lesson:

# The Rattrap

### Objects Needed:

- A large rattrap, which you can find at most hardware stores.
- A small mousetrap could also be used, but for the benefit of larger audiences the larger rattrap is preferred.

### Some Key Verbs:

Catch, tempt, trap, hunger, trust, faith, doubt, unbelief, brave, safe, doing right or wrong.

### Concept Phrases or Sayings:

- Hunger is only one source of temptation.
- Temptation is not wrong. We all are tempted. It is yielding to temptation that is wrong.
- We have to trust God when we are tempted.
- With every temptation God always provides a way to escape.

### Concept Bible Passages:

- **I Cor. 10:13**
- **James 1:13-14**

### An Extra Tip:

- It is important not to identify a child and attribute to him the name "rat." He could be teased.
- Ask for a brave child, usually an older one should help you.

Another Kidhelper Resource from...

**Creative Children's Ministries**

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## A Sample Message: by Rev. Barney Kinard

### "Who Took My Cheese?"

Look what I have in my hand. What is this? That's close...a mousetrap is smaller. This is a rattrap for the larger rat. I want to show how this trap works. It has a bail that you can carefully pull back...like this. But when you let it go, it snaps like this. Sorry, I didn't mean to startle you. You have to be careful with a rattrap. You could get hurt with this. I found that out!

Now when you carefully pull the bail back like this, you can swing this lever over the bail and hook the crooked end in this little loose catch. If you can get the lever to hold in the catch, then the trap is set. By putting some cheese on the end of the catch. I will use this pencil to show you what happens when the rat touches the cheese. Now I will poke the pencil onto the catch, which releases the lever, which releases the bail, which catches the rat. Whoa! It snapped my pencil in half. Look at that!

Now I will need the help of a brave boy! Yes, you will do just fine! Come up here with me. Now, you know I would not hurt you, but I will need your help to illustrate how this trap works. (While the child was coming up front, you secretly remove the spring off the bail, so the bail moves freely and will not work as designed). What I will need you to do is to pretend you are like a "rat." We all know that you are not really a rat, but let's just pretend.

So let's also pretend that you have not eaten in nearly a week! You are really hungry! And you find this trap all set with cheese and a little chunky peanut butter on top. You like peanut butter? Good! Works for me! Now what I need for you to do is to walk all the way around me three times, studying the trap. Remember, you are really hungry and you have not eaten in nearly a week. Show us how hungry you are. Good action with tongue! Now walk around me three times and then you decide whether you are go for the cheese with the peanut butter or just decide to pass. (Helper walks around three times)

What have you decided? (You are prepared to go either way he answers) You are not going to reach for the cheese! Good, you were tempted, but you did not go for it, you passed. You are going for the cheese! Good, actually it would not hurt you, because I dismantled the springs on the bail. The Bible says, "...When you are tempted, He will also provide a way out." It is not wrong to be tempted! But to yield to temptation and do wrong deeds is the problem.

How can we escape so great a temptation? God will provide a way of escape. Sometimes we just have to say, No! Sometimes the answer is to "flee" or run away from the temptation. We have to recognize that the Evil One, Satan, wants to tempt us with evil. We have to be careful with Satan's traps. We could get hurt.