

Warnings

Biblical Material: Proverbs 25.12

‘A warning given by an experienced and trustworthy person to those who are willing to listen is more valuable than gold.’

You will need:

- A motorist’s warning triangle or similar device.
- Several red paper triangles each with a hole punched in the top.
- A wire coat hanger.
- Some wool to hang up the triangles.
- Scissors.

Introduction

Set up the triangle and explain its use: where it is placed, and the warning it gives to other motorists. Talk with the pupils about warning signals such as light houses, flashing lights etc. Ask for suggestions as to other warning devices.

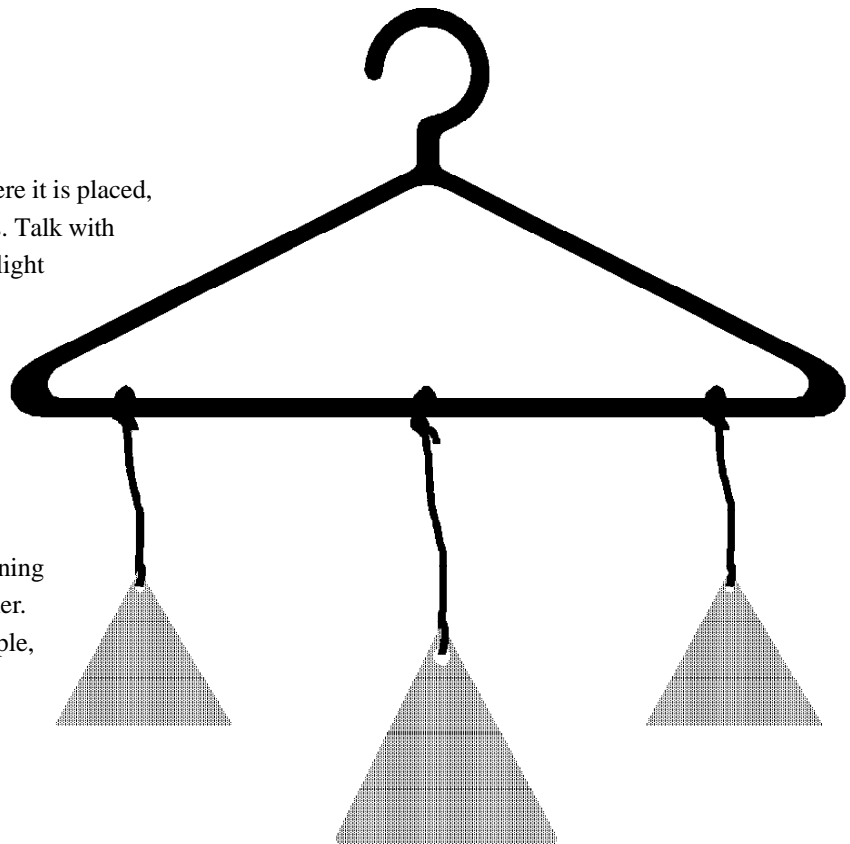
Core Material

A warning triangle tells the motorist, in advance, that there is trouble ahead: another motorist has broken down. A warning triangle stops one car colliding with another. Sometimes warnings come from other people, who can see us heading for trouble, and who care enough to warn us. Read the Biblical Material. The Bible adds two conditions concerning warnings by other people:

- it should be from an experienced person, someone who has seen this sort of thing before.
- the person asking for advice should listen.

Some warnings fall on deaf ears and are wasted, just as some motorists see fog warnings on the motor way and ignore them. Giving warnings is part of being a responsible friend, but it does not always make you popular. If the friendship is a good one, it will be able to survive those occasions when warnings are needed. Jesus was not afraid of warning people if he saw that what they were doing was wrong. Once Jesus warned his followers about the dangers of wealth with these words: ‘It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven.’ (Mark 10.25).

He did not mean rich people could not go to heaven. He was warning that sometimes riches make it hard because wealth becomes all important.



Prayer/Reflection

A warning mobile.

Take a wire coat hanger and hang it up. Ask several pupils to thread the wool through the paper triangles. Ask the pupils for suggestions of things a friend might warn another not to do because it will lead to danger and trouble. Write the suggestions on the triangles and hang them on the coat hanger as a mobile. The suggestions can then become the focus for prayer or reflection.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.