

## **What It Is and Isn't**

This poem examines an object or a place and then defines it by explaining what it is and what it is not.

### **Benefits of What It Is and Isn't**

- Highlights important details
- Reveals misconceptions or misplaced confidences
- Improves comprehension and understanding

### **Types of Stories for What It Is and Isn't**

- Any story that has a specific object used for an intended purpose.
- Look for stories that focus upon tradition or commonly held beliefs
- Possible stories:
  - The Garden Tomb (Stories #219 & 220)
  - Water turned to Wine at Canaan (Story #182)
  - The Cross or The Crown of Thorns (Stories 218 & 219)
  - Esther's Crown (Stories 175 & 176)
  - The Jawbone of the Ass (Story # 70)
  - Joseph's Special Coat (Story # 28)
  - Moses basket on the Nile (Story # 33)
  - The Woman's Lost Coin (Story # 209)

### **Directions for What It Is and Isn't**

1. After hearing the story, read it in the Bible.
2. Focus upon an item or a place in the story by asking.
  - a. What was the intended purpose of this object?
  - b. Did this object fulfill its purpose or fail to fulfill?
  - c. How did people view this object?
  - d. Was this object believed to have special powers or meaning?
  - e. What is the lesson of this story?
3. Write a few lines explaining what something is
4. Now write several lines showing what the object is not
5. End with a lesson

## Sample of What It Is and Isn't based on Story # 196 / John 5

### Pool of Bethesda

The pool offered hope  
to the blind, the lame, the paralyzed  
When the water stirred up.  
No magic stirs in those waters.  
It has no power greater than Jesus;  
No substitute for God.  
It is no reason for endless waiting  
Depending upon man to help.  
To dream of being whole  
Lying in wait but not calling to God,  
Will never enable anyone to  
Rise up; take your mat and walk.

The 3 opening lines explain what the Pool of Bethesda was to the people.

The next 5 lines examine what the Pool is not. It isn't magic, or more powerful than Jesus, or a substitute for God, or a reason to wait endlessly.

The closing lines share a lesson from the story –do not depend upon man instead of God.