

"THE FENCE"

by

Group 3 VCS

Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Omaha, NE

INTRODUCTION:

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then, slowly he hammered less and less. He figured out it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when he didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "It's great that you learned how to hold your temper son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in someone and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A wound from a word is as bad as a physical one. Friends are like a very rare jewel. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

FADE TO THE MALL

ditching hurts

A group of boys and a group of girls are walking together at a local mall.

NICHOLAS

Wow, I can't believe the girls asked us to come to the mall with them.

CODIE

I actually hate the mall, but it's cool to come with the girls.

NICHOLAS

Yeah, it was only a day ago I thought girls all had cooties!

They both laugh

KYLIE

Can you believe that the boys actually came with us to the mall?

BRENNA

Yeah, it's been so much fun that it's almost a shame that we're just going to ditch 'em! Besides Nicholas told me I had cooties yesterday.

*Boys wander over to one side
pretending to look at something*

KYLIE

Hurry! The boys just went over to look

at the new hyper-9000-motorized-death-wish-scooter! RUN!

BRENNA

Its going to be so funny when everyone finds out how bad we ditched the boys! I can't wait to see their faces in school tomorrow!

Action: The Girls all run laughing off to one side, leaving the boys standing alone.

SOUND EFFECT: HAMMERING NAILS INTO WOOD

FADE TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

STEPHEN

Here come THOSE girls!

CODIE

Quick Nick, bring all the soccer balls!

Action: Nicholas carries up some soccer balls

NICHOLAS

They thought ditching us at the mall was funny, lets see how they like wearing a new style - house of pain!

Sound Effect: Thunder

The girls come walking across the playground

BRENNA

The whole school is talking about how we ditched the boys at the mall yesterday!

KYLIE

This is way too cool! But to be honest, I felt a little funny almost feel a little bad for them.

Action:Group high five

CODIE

Okay, okay, here they are - ready, set GET'M

Action: The boys begin pelting the girls with soccer balls, some of the girls get knocked down

Action: Teacher comes rushing in

TEACHER

What in the world is going on! Are you girls ok? Boys what happened?!

CODIE & NICHOLAS

We were playing dodgeball and the girls

just walked in the way! <snickering>

TEACHER

Girls, you need to be more careful!
Boys, watch more closely when you're playing!

Thinking out loud

I heard that the girls ditched the boys at the mall, I wonder if the boys just lied to cover up? Guess I can't really trust them all that well.

Sound effect: Hammering nails

Action: Walk across with the board full of nails

PULLING OUT THE NAILS & PATCHING THE HOLES

Matthew 6:14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

FADE IN TO CHURCH

BRENNA

The boys almost killed us with those soccer balls at school

KYLIE

I'm so mad at them! But I guess we did ditch them first. Sshhhhhhhh here comes Father Chris!

Bring in VCS Groups 1 and 2

Play CD and sing along to "Now that we have come" (Vespers)

Psalm 15:2 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

NICHOLAS

Codie, I feel pretty bad about hitting the girls with the soccer balls.

CODIE

Yeah, but I'm not going to give in and let them think they won! But how long can we stay mad at each other?

NICHOLAS

Father is always pretty cool, maybe we

can ask him to talk to the girls for us.

Action: The boys gather around the Priest and are gesturing. The girls are standing off to one side and the Priest gestures them over.

Action: The younger kids sing along to "O Heavenly King Chalice of Unity" Communion song.

NARRATOR

Saint Chrysostom teaches us:

Trample not then on the fallen, but rather pity him. If we see any one troubled and straining, we lend a hand, and continue to support them through their struggles, and though we stain our garments, we don't care, but only try to set them free from this their troubles.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Action: Final sing along to "Living in an Orthodox World"

THE END