

Follow the Plan (Elephant toothpaste)

Lesson learnt:

This ridiculously funny object lesson will have the children instantly pointing out where the leader is going wrong. From this we can see that when we follow our own plan instead of God's perfect plan, we can really make a mess of things. Luckily, the leader who followed the plan shares her cake with the silly leader who did her own thing and similarly we need to be forgiving of others and have grace for those who mess up too.



One leader follows the recipe for making a cake and the other leader doesn't. The results are hilarious as the second leader is actually making "elephant toothpaste" in their bowl.

Items needed:

- "Ingredients" for a cake

Leader following the plan	Silly Leader not following the plan
Flour	Flowers
Egg	Easter egg
Nuts (tree nuts)	Nuts and bolts
Sugar	Sugar
1 small cup milk	Pour lots of milk

- Ready-made cake to bring out at the end.
- Ingredients for "elephant toothpaste"

Mix in a 500ml bottle:

- 100ml 40vol hydrogen peroxide (This can be bought at the pharmacy)
- 20ml dishwashing liquid
- A bit of food colouring

Mix in another container: (An empty milk carton works well with the skit)

- 1 packet of instant dry yeast
- 100ml lukewarm water

When you are ready to perform the experiment make sure that you have protected the surface and floor with disposable tablecloths. Add the yeast mixture to the hydrogen peroxide, step back and watch it react.

Skit:

Link to video demonstration: <https://youtu.be/jfo8LOQLtCI>

Plan follower	I'm so excited because today we are going to make a cake!
Silly leader	Ooh YUM! I love to eat cake! Do you guys like to eat cake? Uh, one problem? I don't know how to make a cake!
Plan follower	Ah that's easy – you don't need to worry I have a PLAN! This plan shows you exactly everything you need to make a cake. <i>(Slide of the plan goes up on screen)</i>
Silly leader	You mean if I follow this plan, I will have a cake?
Plan follower	Yup
Silly leader	Cool that sounds easy ... let's do this!
Plan follower	So first we will need some flour
Silly leader	Flowers got it.
Plan follower	The plan says flour ... I don't think it means those kind of flowers
Silly leader	Flour ... flower ... sounds the same must be the same. The flower is in what next?
Plan follower	Um ok. Next the plan says add an egg
Silly leader	One egg coming up
Plan follower	That's a chocolate Easter egg. The plan says an egg not a chocolate egg
Silly leader	Yes, but these taste so much nicer! Let me check <i>(lick each)</i> It's a little off the plan but I'm sure it will be fine.
Plan follower	Seriously?? Did you just lick my egg? Next the plan says add some nuts.

Silly leader	Nuts and bolts coming up.
Plan follower	But leader 2....
Silly leader	No, no, no, no, I'm not listening to you anymore you keep telling me I'm doing it wrong
Plan follower	But you need to follow the plan exactly... Ok next up is a cup of sugar
Silly leader	One cup of sugar
Plan follower	<i>Looks shocked</i>
Silly leader	What???
Plan follower	You added one cup of sugar
Silly leader	I know that's what the plan said
Plan follower	I know you need to follow the plan ...but you keep getting everything wrong.. and so, I thought ... never mind moving on. Lastly add one cup of milk
Silly leader	Oooh creamy milk. I'll add more than just a cup. <i>It is at this point that you add the premixed dry yeast and lukewarm water (in the milk carton) into the other ingredients that are already hidden in the bowl</i>
Plan follower	Noooo!!! Oh dear, leader 2, see where not following the plan gets you? (Ping noise of an oven) Ah! I think mine is ready. (Bring out ready-made cake)
Silly leader	Ah man, look at yours! Next time I'm going to follow the plan!
Main leader	Whose cake would you rather eat? Today we are going to learn that GOD HAS A PLAN AND A PURPOSE for your life. And this fun little skit just showed us how important it is for us to follow the plan. The exciting thing is that the plan isn't to make a cake. The plan is to become the person God has made you to be and do the things God wants you to do. And when we are following God's plan we need to remember Flour – it can't be close it has to be exactly His plan. Egg – it can't be what we like it has to be what God says.

Nuts – God is kind and loving and we go off His plan He is kind enough to direct us back. It doesn't help putting your fingers in your ears and not listening.

Sugar – every little part of God's plan for our lives counts, it doesn't help to only get a small part right. God wants us to do the little and the big things He has planned for us.

Milk - God has created you with a plan and a purpose.

When you do it your way things end in disaster but when you follow God's plan exactly ... what a wonderful creation you will be.

