

Self control

Biblical Material: Proverbs 16.32

‘A patient person is better than a soldier, and it is better to win control over yourself than win control of whole cities.’

You will need:

- A radio controlled car (optional).
- A bowl.
- A packet of corn flakes.

Introduction

Bring in the radio controlled car and show the pupils how it works. It is controlled from the outside. You can make it go where you wish. It is the same with robots. They are controlled by a computer programme. They can't think for themselves. You can demonstrate this by using a pupil or another member of staff to act as a robot. Stand the person in front of a table and treat them as a robot. Give them instructions on opening a packet of corn flakes and pouring them in the bowl. They must not think for themselves.

Example: Lift the packet. Stop.

Move hand to the right. Stop.

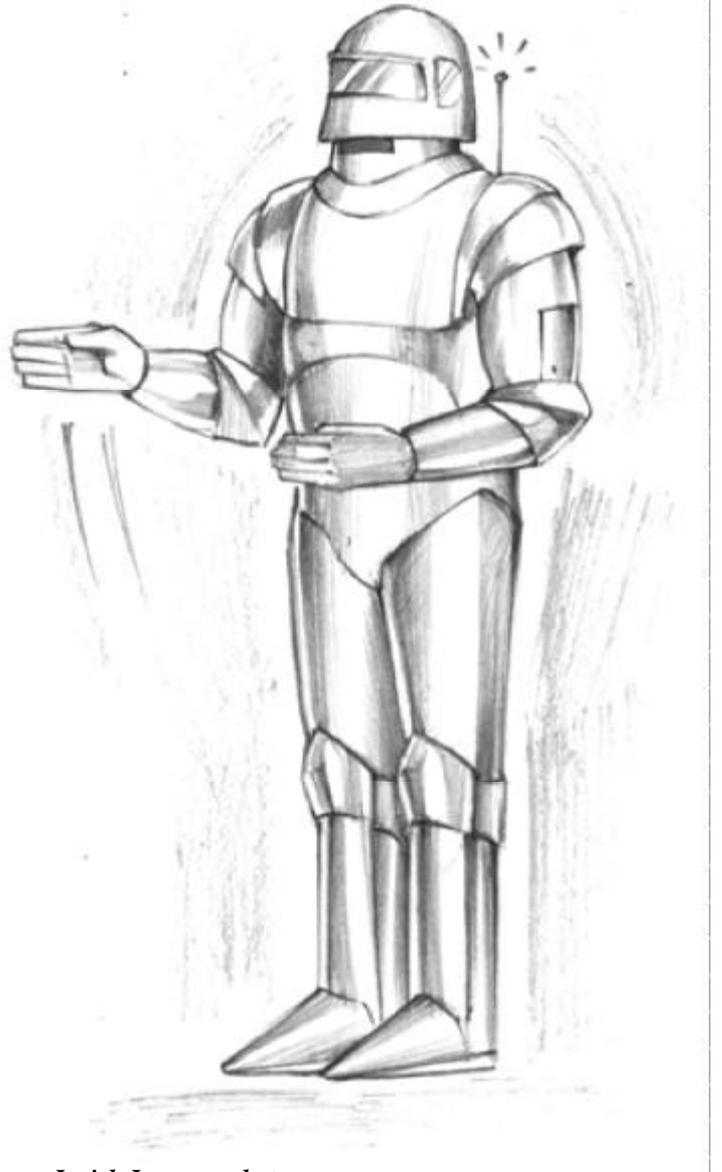
Tilt the packet. Stop.

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. Self control is when you don't need someone else to make you do things. Radio controlled cars and robots need other people to control or programme them. Christians believe God has not made people like robots. People are free to make their own decisions about right and wrong. People are free to ask for advice or help from God or others, but in the end it is up to them what they do. That freedom includes the freedom to do wrong, although there are consequences which have to be taken into account. Some wrong doing, such as stealing, is against the law. If people choose this type of wrong, they get in trouble with the law. Other types of wrong doing, such as lying, are not generally against the law but they do have consequences in people's lives.

Prayer/Reflection

After you have read the prayer below, ask the pupils to think what the 'prayer of the robot' might be. Would it wish for freedom, or is freedom too much of a responsibility?



*I wish I was a robot,
With a chip for a heart
And a computer for a brain.
Being a robot is easy,
You don't have to think -
Just follow your programme.
Being human is difficult,
You have to make choices.
Help us, Father, to control ourselves
And make right choices with your help.*

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