



Echoes in the Darkness

by Scott Harrup

Funnel Heartbeat

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tape
- Tracing paper
- Plastic funnel
- Plastic tube (It should be close in size to the narrow end of the funnel and long enough to reach from your chest to your ear.)

PROCEDURE

1. Cover the wide end of the funnel with tracing paper and secure with tape.
2. Tape one end of the plastic tube over the narrow end of the funnel.
3. Place the wide end of the funnel on your chest over your heart.
4. Bring the other end of the tube near your ear. You should hear your heart beating.

WHY THIS HAPPENS

You should be able to hear your heartbeat because sound travels through vibrations. As your heart beats against your chest, it makes the paper over the wide end of the funnel vibrate. Those vibrations are concentrated in the tube and carried to your ear. Your homemade stethoscope works pretty much the same way that your doctor's stethoscope works.

Did-You-Know?

Operating on the heart is very difficult. Surgeons in World War II learned to remove small pieces of shrapnel (metal pieces from explosions) from soldiers' hearts. But they could only cut a small hole in the heart to find the metal. On September 2, 1952, two surgeons at the University of Minnesota were able to open and repair the heart of a 5-year-old girl. But they had to work fast, since the girl could only live for 10 minutes without her heart pumping normally. In 1958, the development of a heart-lung machine let doctors pump a patient's blood through special equipment. This gave them the time they needed to do longer repairs on the heart. God gives people wisdom, and that wisdom has allowed surgeons to do more and more things to give people healthier hearts.

When you listen to a heartbeat, you're listening to the sound of life. God created your heart as a strong muscle to pump blood to carry oxygen and the nutrition from your food throughout your

body. Did you know your heart will beat about 2.8 billion times if you live to be 75?

As you listen to your heartbeat with your stethoscope, close your eyes and imagine for a minute what it was like in Jesus' tomb on that amazing third day following His death on the cross.

Everything was still. Everything was dark.

The heavy stone at the tomb's entrance kept out all light and sound no matter what time of day it was. The air would have smelled sweet from the spices wrapped within Jesus' grave clothes.

And then, in the darkness, if you listened carefully, you would have heard it. Jesus began to breathe again. If you could have put your ear to His chest, you would have heard His heart begin to beat again.

Jesus was alive! We call this the Resurrection. Jesus had died a terrible, painful death on the cross to pay the price for our sins. But in order to truly become our Savior, He had to be alive. (See 1 Corinthians 15:17-22.) God raised Jesus from the dead, and Jesus is alive today. (See Acts 13:26-33.)

The heart is the universal symbol of love. Think of all the Valentines you've sent and received. How many were shaped like a heart?

Jesus truly loves everyone. That's why He was willing to be put on a cross, killed and buried in a tomb. But He is alive today. Jesus wants to be your Savior. Have you prayed and asked Him to save you? **e**

E-mail your comments to pe@ag.org.

