

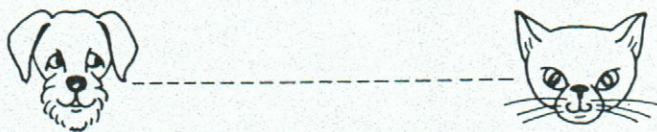
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 8, 26-39



OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

Isn't God's creation of man marvelous? Look at some of the ways He made us so we can have fun with ourselves!

Optical illusions are pictures that play tricks on your eyes and baffle your perception. They are not the result of faulty vision or psychic suggestion. Depending on light, viewing angle, or the way the picture is drawn, we may see things that aren't there—and often don't see what's right under our nose.



Take a look at this dog and cat (Figure A). Close your left eye. Keep your right eye focused on the dog and move the book back and forth in front of you. What happens?

ANSWERS

At one point the cat disappears completely. You have just found your blind spot. Everyone has one. It is the spot where the optic nerve cord leaves your eye and there are no nerve cells to register an image.

Why do you have a blind spot? When we use both eyes, we see an object from two slightly set apart angles. Each one registers a different view. If you use both eyes as you look at the dog, you won't have a blind spot. The image from your left eye will make up for the blank in your right.

The shortcomings of our vision explain some types of optical illusions, but not all of them. Our eyes gather impressions, but it is the brain that interprets them. And the brain is always trying to make sense out of what it sees. So if our eyes see something that the brain can't figure out, our mind "corrects" the picture automatically.

Humans are not the only ones who are tricked by optical illusions. Laboratory tests performed on fish and birds reveal that these animals are fooled just about as often as we are, and sometimes in the same way!

Scientists have studied optical illusions for centuries and they still don't agree about how or why all of them work.

Figure B:
A practical looking
construction.
Can you build it?

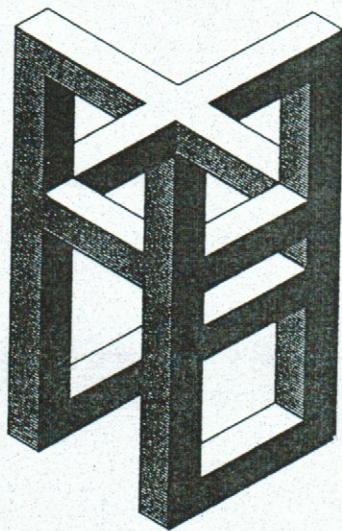
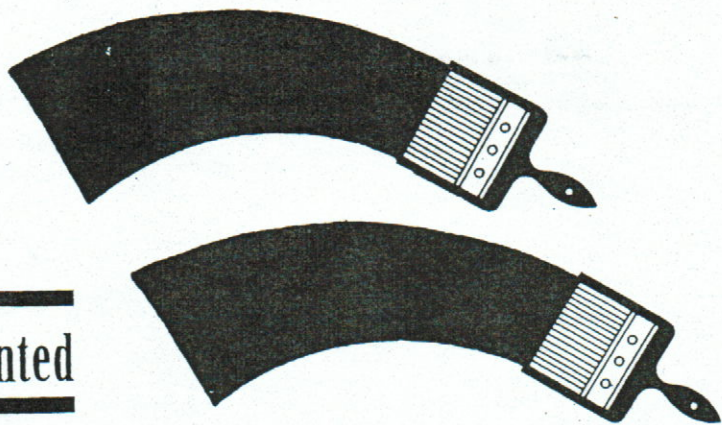


Figure B: No, this is what is called an "Impossible Object." It is a trick drawing.

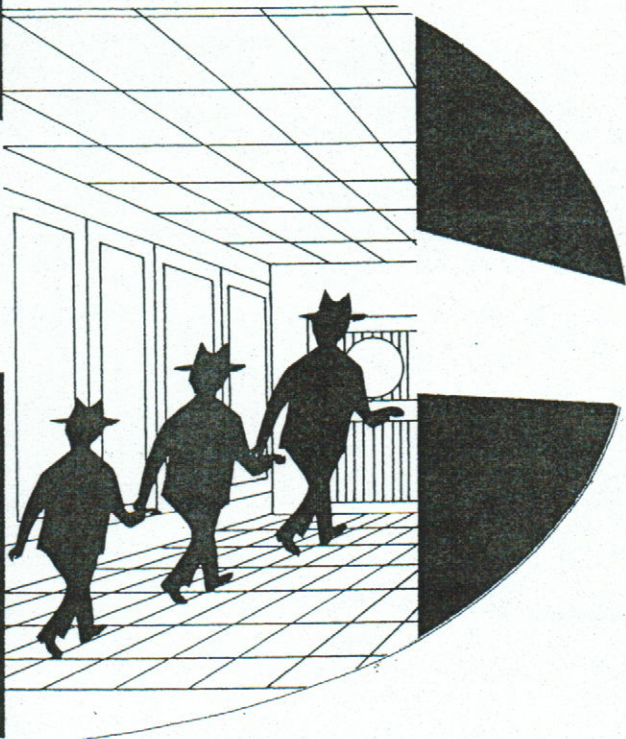
Painted
Stripes



Which of these two painted stripes
is longer?

AT THE
MOVIES

Which of these
moviegoers is the
tallest?



1. They are both the same size.

2. They are all the same height. The man at the right looks tallest. We expect things to look smaller when they are farther away. The man at the right is farthest away, and we would expect him to look the smallest. Since he doesn't, we assume he's really larger than the others.