

Knotty Boy

By Sheldon H. Rhodes



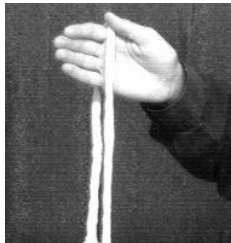
(Holding up a four foot long section of soft rope.) Let me tell you a story about a little boy. He was a tall, skinny guy. In fact, he was so tall and skinny that his nickname was Slim. *(As you tie a simple overhand knot in the center of the rope.)* Slim was always doing things that got him into trouble. *(Tie another knot about a fourth of the way from each end. So that you now have three knots in the rope.)* He was in trouble in the morning, *(Hold the rope by one of the ends with your left hand and point with the right hand to the knot on the top.)* at noon, *(Point to the knot in the middle.)* and at night. *(Point to the knot on the bottom. Then take the other end of the rope with your right hand as you say. . .)* In fact, he did so many things to get in trouble that everyone just called him a *(short pause)* **“KNOTTY” BOY.** *(Pause for the groans and laughs.)*

(As you untie the knots.) Slim didn't like being in trouble so he had to spend a lot of time trying to get out of trouble. *(As you hold both ends and pull the rope tight.)* Actually what he was trying to do was **STRAIGHTEN** his life out.

(As you tie another knot in the center.) Sometimes he would even tell a lie to try to get out of trouble. And you know what that does. It only causes more trouble. *(Untie the knot you just made.)* Now he has to try to get out of trouble again.

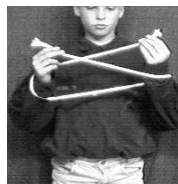
Some people even said that Slim could get in trouble with one hand behind his back and he could. *(Tie a knot using only your right hand while your left hand is behind your back.)* In fact, it didn't seem to matter which hand he had behind his back, he could still get in trouble. *(Tie a knot using only your left hand while your right hand is behind your back.)* He was in trouble from the first thing in the morning *(Point to top knot.)* till the last thing at night. *(Point to bottom knot. Then untie both knots.)*

The One Hand Knot



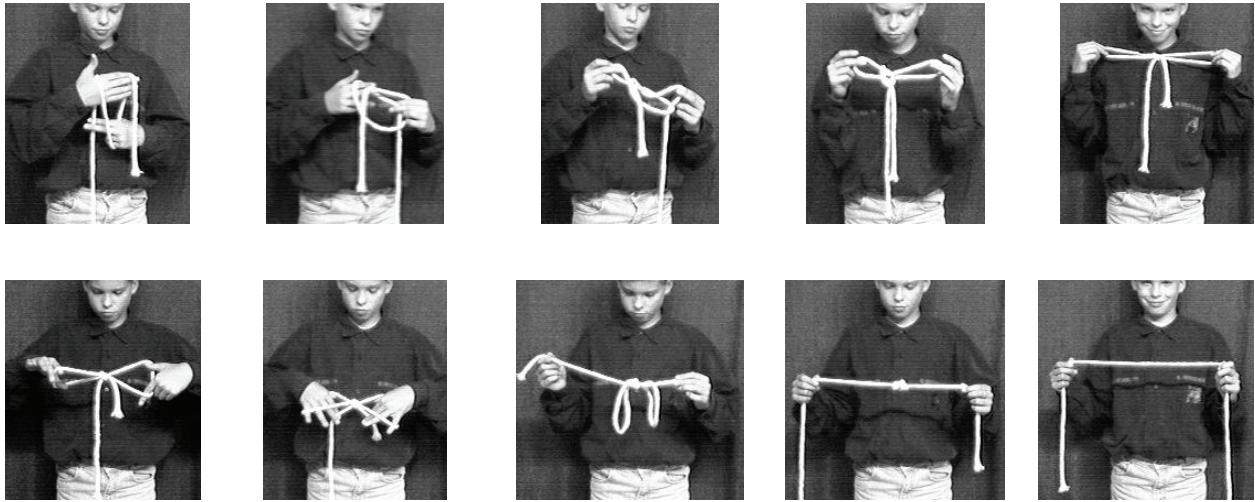
(Hold one end in your left hand, place the other end on your right knee or someplace where it won't move so that you can later reach it with your right hand.) One day Slim had an idea. He found two friends and ask them to help him stay out of trouble. He told the one friend *(Hold up the left hand holding one end.)* hang on to me and make sure I don't do anything to get into trouble. *(Cross your arms and take hold of the other end with your right hand.)* He told his other friend to hold on to him so that he couldn't get in trouble. *(Hold the rope away from your body and swing it forward and back as you say . . .)* There he was, just **HANGING** around with his two friends. But his two friends were trouble makers. And you know what happens when you hang around with trouble makers. *(Still holding on to the two ends, uncross your arms and pull on the rope.)* You end up in trouble too! So there he was, in trouble again.

Hanging Around With Two Friends



(Untie the knot as you start the next section.) Slim had never been to Sunday school or church before. He had seen a lot of other people going to church though. One day he decided that maybe he should go to church too. He had noticed that everyone that was going to church was all dressed up. It's not really necessary to get all dressed up, but you should look the best you can. (Tie a bow tie knot and hold it up under your chin.) Anyway, he put on his tie and off he went to church.

Bow Tie To Dissolving Knot

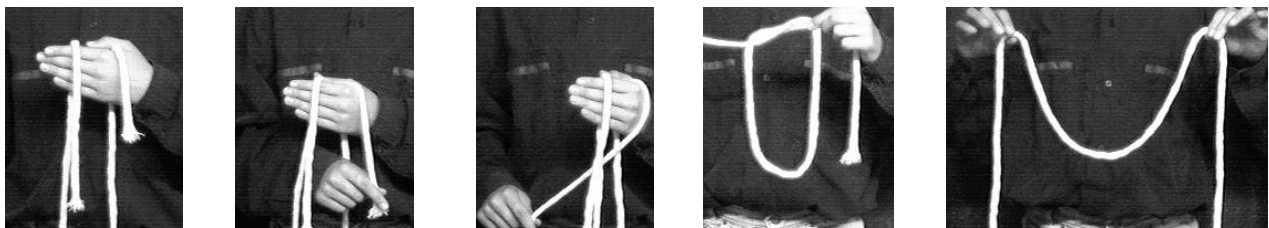


When he got there, the Sunday school teacher was talking about sin. He said that sin is anything that we do that displeases God. Sin is all of those “knotty” things that we do. Slim thought that maybe the teacher knew about all of the “knotty” things in his life. Actually, the teacher didn't know about Slim's sin, but, he knew that we have all sinned and come short of pleasing God.

(Lean both hands forward and pinch the two ends of the rope and pull them back up through the loops of the bow. Pull the two ends until there is a large knot in the center of the rope. **CAUTION:** Do not pull too hard. If you do, the knot will disappear and you will be left with a straight rope. That comes later.) Slim knew that his whole life was one big knot.

The teacher went on to say that Jesus came to die on the cross and shed His blood so that our sins could be taken away. Well, Slim listened and thought that was really Good News. (Swing the rope back and forth as you start to pull the ends tight.) So that day he prayed and asked Jesus to take away his sins. (Pull hard on the ends and the knot will vanish.) And that is exactly what Jesus did.

False Knot



(Tie a false knot.) Now that does not mean that Slim never did anything “knotty” again. Even though a person is a Christian, they still do “knotty” things. But, I am so thankful for I John 1:9 which tells us that if we (as Christians) will confess our sins, that he (God) is faithful and will forgive us of our sins. (Pull ends and knot will vanish.)

And that's the story of Slim, the “knotty” boy.



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