

***Back to School with God 2009***  
***Golf Ball in Rice Illustration***

**Talk Illustration 1: Golf ball in Rice**

You will need:

A large empty mayonnaise jar with lid, enough dry uncooked rice to fill it, a golf ball, a bowl.



- a) Fill the jar with the rice, commenting as you do so, 'It's easy for our lives and our days to get filled up; our families and our friends keep us busy; our work keeps us busy; paying the bills takes time; following our sports teams keeps us busy; fitting in our favourite TV programmes, computer games, the things we do to relax. All of these things fill our lives.'
- b) When the jar is full, try putting the golf ball into the jar and putting the lid on, commenting, 'Sometimes there just doesn't seem to be enough time to talk to God; we are too busy. He gets squeezed in at the end of our day, and there just isn't room to fit him in.'
- c) Empty the rice into the bowl, commenting 'In our Bible reading today, Jesus says that we need to put God and his kingdom first in our lives. Let's see what happens when we do that.'
- d) Put the golf ball into the empty jar, then put the rice in again – this time it should all fit! Put the lid on the jar, commenting, 'When we follow Jesus' guidelines and put God first, we find that there is room for everything else. We have got our lives in balance. Prayer shouldn't be squeezed out of our everyday lives – it should be central to it.'