

Jesus' Teaches Us About Our Hearts



Theme: Humility—Changing the heart

Works & Words activities related to this lesson

God is Happy!, *Works & Words, Book 1*, page 22
Hidden Message, *Works & Words, Book 2*, page 22

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Go for the Bible Facts!

Memory Verse: Reproduce a worksheet with blanks in the Memory Verse to be filled in by the students. A sample worksheet is found on page 63 of this Guide. After all students have completed the worksheet, read it aloud together.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. In the classroom Bibles, find and mark Luke 10:38.
2. Move to the Bible story area.
3. Have children point out places on the time line and map for today's lesson.
4. Ideas for telling the story:
 - Use the *Stop, Look, and Listen Lesson Graphics* showing the Pharisees.
 - Have children tell the story of Martha and Mary using Finger People.
 - Use other props such as a dish that is clean on the outside and dirty on the inside, and pictures of a black heart and a red heart.
 - Read together Luke 10:38-42.
5. Major points of today's lesson, adjusting more or less for different age groups:
 - Jesus sent men ahead of Him to teach about His kingdom because He knew He would be killed soon.
 - Mary and Martha are sisters with the same guests in their home, but each had a different focus. Martha is busy and worried about serving the guest and doing the work around the house, while Mary simply listens to Jesus. Jesus said Mary's choice was better.

- Jesus was truthful to the Pharisees about their hearts. He said that even though they appeared righteous to others, they had hate in their hearts and were unkind to others. They were like a dish that was dirty on the inside but clean on the outside. Jesus said that it is what is on the inside that matters.
 - Jesus told a parable about a dinner feast. He was trying to explain that God invites everyone into His Kingdom, but some people don't want to obey Him and they cannot be a part of His Kingdom.
6. Talk with the students about listening. A part of good learning is good listening. A lesson or sermon can be fantastic, but if we don't listen it won't do us any good. What are some ways we can be good listeners?

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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What's n Our Hearts?, *Works & Words, Book 1*, page 23

What's n Our Hearts?, *& Words, Book 2*, page 23

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Go for the Bible Facts!

Memory Verse: Print the Memory Verse on paper using a relatively large font. Print a Memory Verse for each student. Cut up the words or phrases of the Memory Verse, and put the pieces in an envelope — one for each student. Have the students put the pieces together to form the Memory Verse. Another option is to provide construction paper and glue sticks and allow the students to glue the Memory Verse pieces on the construction paper in the correct order.

Prayer

Starter

Bring to class a bowl that is sparkling clean on the outside, but has bits of hardened or molded food on the inside. Put cereal in the bowl and offer it to the students. Go on and on about how pretty the bowl is and how nice and clean it looks on the outside. Offer the cereal again to the students in this bowl. Talk to them about why they wouldn't want to eat cereal out of this bowl.

Some people live this way. They clean up the outside of their lives that other people see, but the inside is not so clean. Finally, we are what we are because of what's on the inside. Jesus teaches us that it's what's inside that counts

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. **Objective:** To help students think through what is important and what is most important.

Reenact the story of Mary, Martha, and Jesus from Luke 10:38-42. Have Martha cleaning and cooking and Mary sitting at Jesus' feet listening to Him. Have Martha come to

Jesus complaining that she is working so hard and Mary's not doing a thing to help. Have Jesus explain that Mary is doing what is most important — listening to His words. Talk about the times when we choose to do other things instead of listen to Jesus' words. Possible answers: we stay home to do homework or watch TV instead of come to Bible class; we stay out too late the night before and we're too tired to listen in class or in worship; we played all day Saturday and didn't take time to do our Bible lesson.

2. *Objective: Help students learn how to decide between pride and humility.*

Put a path of tape on the floor called the *Path of Humility*. Every three feet or so, have two index cards on either side of the path — one describing pride and the other describing humility. For example:

- I love to sing so everyone can watch me.
- I love to sing with others so all can participate.
- I know I am always right.
- I want to learn to be better.
- I never disobey; I'm nearly perfect.
- I try to obey, but sometimes I don't do so good.

In walking the path, a student must choose between the index cards the one that will keep him or her on the *Path of Humility*. Ask students to talk about why this is the right choice.

3. *Objective: To demonstrate that it's what's inside that matters the most.*

Have two cans of fruit of different kinds. Before class, carefully detach the labels and then reattach one of them with a small piece of tape so you can easily remove it. Hold up one can with a label. "Can anyone tell me what this is?" ("Peaches.") "How do you know it's peaches?" ("It says so on the can.") "Oh, it does say that on the label. What if I take off the label and put on another label?" (a "Pears" label). "So now, pears are in the can. That's what the label says." ("No, no.") "So, you're telling me that no matter what the label says on the outside of the can, it's what's inside that makes the difference?" Can you think of how this applies to our lives?

4. *Objective: To help students think through the importance of deciding to follow Jesus.*

Using a marker board, list down one side excuses kids often use for not doing their Bible lesson. List down the other side good reasons to do your Bible lesson. Talk with the students about making good decisions or choices about God's will. Most of following Jesus is deciding or choosing to follow Him.

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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