

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for children

Life of Christ

Clean and unclean Matthew 15:1-18

Younger Verse

When I am afraid, I will trust in You. Psalm 56:3

Older Verse

When I am afraid, I will trust in You. Psalm 56:3

Welcome Time

Have you ever played and gotten very dirty? Most of us want to take a bath to feel fresh and clean again. Jesus talked about being clean. Let's see what He meant.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Teachers: this lesson may be a little hard for younger children to understand. Be sensitive and share how Jesus wants us to really love Him not just pretend.

Back in Jesus' time, there were some people who had lots of rules that they thought everyone should follow. Some were important rules and others were almost silly.

One silly rule had to do with washing your hands before eating. It IS important to wash you hands. However, these people made a rule about how many times you should wash your hands before you ate. They had to wash and wash their hands over and over to be sure that they were totally clean. It took a lot of work and a lot of time.

These people who made sure they followed all the laws were called Pharisees (fair-a-seas). They were very proud of themselves and often made sure others knew how "religious" they were.

One day, they traveled from their home to talk to Jesus. Honestly, they were probably trying to find a way to trick Jesus. They asked Jesus why His friends did not wash their hands like the law said.

Instead of answering their question, Jesus asked them a question. Jesus knew their hearts were not clean. They looked like they followed God on the outside in the things they said, but inside their hearts were dirty. They had attitudes that were wrong and not pleasing to God.

Jesus asked them about their parents. One of the ten commandments is to honor our mother and father. God wants us to respect and obey them. He wants us to help them and care for them when they are older. These people decided to give money to God instead of using the money to care for their parents. Jesus explained that this new rule was hurtful and wrong. It made them look good to others, but hurt their own family.

Lesson Goals

Tell what it means to be clean on the inside
Explain the difference between saying something good and having a good heart that demonstrates goodness

It is wonderful to give money to God. Jesus meant that they were purposefully giving money so that they would not have to take care of their parents. Their hearts were not right.

In fact, Jesus tells them that they spoke words that seemed to honor God BUT their hearts showed that they really did not love God at all.

Then, Jesus explained that what a person eats does not make him clean or dirty before God. God looks at our heart and knows if we have right attitudes and motives.

What about you? Are you clean or dirty on the inside? Jesus tried to help the Pharisees understand that God does not look at their hands to see if they are clean or unclean. God looks at our hearts.

The Bible tells us that we all have done things that have made us unclean and dirty before God. These things separate us from Him. God loves us and made a way for us to be clean and pure. God sent His Son, Jesus, to help us. Jesus did live a life that was clean and pure. He never sinned at all. When He died on the cross, He died for all the wrong sins that we have done. He died for us! Then, three days later, Jesus came back to life!! If we believe in Jesus and know in our heart that He died for us, Jesus promises to do something wonderful for us. If we tell Jesus we are sorry for all our sin and ask Him to come into our life, Jesus will be with us and stay with us forever. He will also take us to Heaven one day to be with God forever. Would you like to know more about Jesus? Let's talk about it together.

Learning Activities

This lesson has a lot to think about. Help the kids see that God does not only look at what we do, but our attitude as well. Help them see that believing in Jesus is not just something in your head, it is also how you believe in your heart.

Memory Verse Activities

Jesus knew that when He was afraid, He could trust in God. Sometimes, people may challenge us like they challenged Jesus. We can always pray and ask God to help us when we are scared or afraid. God promises to help us and be right beside us.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us do things His way and have His attitudes. Thank Him that we can trust in Him and know that He will always be with us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring "dirty" snacks and "clean" snacks. An idea may be to bring both dirty and clean apples or another fruit. Obviously the kids will choose the clean fruit. Share how we must be clean on the inside too.

Planning for July 27th
Jesus Feeds 4,000 people
Matthew 15:29-38

Preschool Lesson
For
Clean and Unclean

Jesus and His friends talked together about all kinds of things. One day, some people from another town came to talk to Jesus. They really were not very nice people. They were trying to trick Jesus.

They asked Jesus a question. They saw that Jesus' friends were not washing their hands before they ate. They thought that a person must wash and wash and wash and wash before they could eat. (pretend that you are washing your hands).

Jesus told them that they had forgotten what was most important. Yes, it is important to wash your hands, but they were more worried about that than the mean thoughts they were thinking.

Jesus knew that they had many mean thoughts in their heart. That made their hearts dirty with sin. He wanted them to know that the mean thoughts hurt God and made Him sad.

He wanted the people to see that they should talk to God and ask Him to forgive their dirty sins. When they did this, God would make them clean on the inside.

Jesus wants us to do kind things and help others. He wants us to think good thoughts and be good to other people. Jesus tells us that God knows what we think and how we feel. He loves us and wants us to think and do good things for others.

Sing, "Jesus in the morning."

Pray and ask God to help us think good thoughts and be kind to all people.

Hands-On Activities For Clean and Unclean

For preschoolers, bring a pan and carefully add water and dish soap. Let them take turns cleaning things. Be careful that the water does not splash out. You may want to put a towel or trash bag on the floor to catch spilled water. It might be easier to clean things outside.

Have the kids think of things that are real versus things that are pretend. Share how the Pharisees were pretending to love God. Talk about what it means to REALLY love God.

Before class, find a pretty cup or mug and a plain white or dull cup or mug. Coat the pretty cup on the inside with dirt and make sure the plain cup is clean. Now, share the two cups with the class. Explain that the pretty cup looks so nice on the outside. Now reveal the inside—all dirty. Show the plain cup and how it is clean on the inside. Explain that the Pharisees looked so nice on the outside but inside their hearts were dirty with sin. Share how Jesus wants us to be clean on the inside in our hearts.

Bring a little bottle of disappearing ink (most party stores carry it) and a handkerchief or paper towel. Drop several drops of ink on the towel and share how we are all dirty with sin. Now turn the towel towards you so that the kids cannot see the ink slowly disappearing. Share how Jesus made a way to clean up all our dirty sins. Slowly explain how Jesus made a way for us to go to Heaven. Now reveal the clean towel with no ink! Share how Jesus removes all the sin from our lives when we ask Him to forgive us. Let the kids see the ink and demonstrate it so that they can see it slowly disappearing. Help them see what it means to have a clean heart.

Bring soap and water to class. Let everyone wash their hands. After they were finished, insist that they wash their hands again. Then, do it again. Obviously the kids will begin to see that they do not need to wash their hands AGAIN. Share how this relates to the lesson today.

Bring little soaps and plastic knives. Have the kids carve designs in the soap to remember to be clean on the inside with our attitudes and motives.

Make a “dirt” pudding by crushing chocolate sandwich cookies to look like “dirt” and sprinkling it over pudding cups.