



HEARTWORK

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT THE HEART

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 9:33-37 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.

FOCUS VERSE

"Create in me a pure heart, O God." Psalm 51:10a (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | "Who is the Greatest" Chart | "Who is the Greatest" Sort | Scissors | Glue Sticks |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite subject at school? Why?
- If you could transport yourself anywhere, where would it be? Why?



YOU MAY BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN A CHILD'S LIFE. BE INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR CONVERSATION.

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Do not skip worship with your kids! One of the biggest mistakes we can make is thinking it doesn't matter if we worship together, but worship is formational and foundational. They learn as they practice. Let's make it a priority.



IF YOU'VE NEVER DONE IT IN CLASS, WORSHIP WHILE KNEELING TODAY. CHOOSE A SLOWER WORSHIP SONG AND SAY, "KNEELING IS ONE WAY WE CAN WORSHIP. WE DON'T HAVE TO STAND EVERY TIME WE WANT TO WORSHIP. LET'S TRY IT TOGETHER."

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Start the lesson by gathering the children for prayer. Allow a willing child to pray, but if no one volunteers, you can pray for the class instead.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for bringing us here today. We invite You to teach us how to follow You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."



TEACHERS, WHEN YOU PRAY OUT LOUD FOR YOUR CLASS, DON'T ONLY RECITE THE PRE-WRITTEN PRAYERS. SPEAK FROM THE HEART. IT'S GOOD FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN THAT PRAYER DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LONG OR PERFECT. KIDS NEED YOU TO MODEL A VIBRANT PRAYER LIFE.

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Use the previous puzzle story pieces to review prior units on Jesus' ministry.

BACKGROUND: Say, "Do you remember last month when we talked about Jesus' parables? Jesus revealed some life-changing secrets with His stories, didn't He? Well, this month we are starting a brand-new series of lessons called 'Heartwork.' Over the next four weeks, we will continue reading about Jesus' life, but this time we're going to see what He taught about our hearts. Jesus loves our hearts... a lot! He loves them so much that He talked about our hearts ALL the time. Jesus wants to heal our hearts and make them pure! That's such great news! Now, our first story puzzle piece for the month looks like this. Who wants to put it on the wall?"

TRANSITION: Say, "Alright, let's do an activity to get us ready to hear our story for today!"

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Today's story is about who is the greatest! Who here likes being the best? Most of us do, don't we? Well, for this activity, we are going to be ordering ourselves by who is the greatest and least in each scenario!"

GAME GOAL: Children will order themselves from greatest to least in each given scenario.

HOW TO PLAY:

Children will order themselves from greatest to least by:

- Age
- Height
- Shoe Size
- Thumb Size
- Arm Length
- Alphabetical by first name (older children)

CHALLENGE: Have the students arrange themselves in order without talking.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job ordering yourself from greatest to least! Now let's read from the Bible to see how God answers the question, 'Who is the Greatest?'"

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, "Jesus' disciples were with Him every day, but even so they still failed and made mistakes. They were people just like us. In the story I'm about to read, Jesus corrected His disciples' because of something wrong they were saying, but the real issue is that His followers had a heart problem! Let's read Mark 9:33-37 (ICB) to see what kind of heart problem Jesus wants to fix in His followers."



IF CHILDREN HAVE THEIR BIBLES, GIVE THEM TIME TO FIND THE PASSAGE SO THEY CAN FOLLOW ALONG.

33 Jesus and his followers went to Capernaum and went into a house there. Then Jesus said to them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" 34 But the followers did not answer, because their argument on the road was about which one of them was the greatest.

35 Jesus sat down and called the 12 apostles (disciples) to him. He said, "If anyone wants to be the most important, then he must be last of all and servant of all." 36 Then Jesus took a small child and had him stand among them. He took the child in his arms and said, 37 "If anyone accepts children like these in my name, then he is also accepting me. And if he accepts me, then he is also accepting the One (God) who sent me."

Say, "WOW! Now that's a heart problem! These disciples are prideful. Does anyone know what 'prideful' means? Yes! These disciples were thinking only, or at least mostly, about themselves."

- Ask, "Have you ever wanted to be the most important person? Have you ever thought about how fantastic it would be if you were the most famous singer or the most popular kid at school?"

"But Jesus is teaching His disciples something different, and it's nothing like how we think on our own. He says, if you want to be the greatest, you must serve other people and make them more important than yourself. Wow. That's not the way we normally think, is it? Jesus says He wants us to be humble—like He is! **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.**"

TRANSITION: "Humility, thinking more of others than we think of ourselves, is a trait of a pure heart, and **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.**"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Wow! That story was great, but a little uncomfortable too. Let's talk about it."

1. What were the disciples arguing about?

- Response: They argued about which of them was Jesus' best/greatest follower.

2. How did Jesus say we become great?

- Response: A person must be willing to be last and be a servant to everyone to become great.

3. What do you think Jesus means when he says to be a 'servant of all'?

- Response: He means we should be doing things for other people that help them and make them great.

4. What kind of heart does Jesus want to give us?

- Response: Jesus wants to give us a pure and humble heart.

5. We don't naturally want to put others first or serve others. How can we change how we feel?

- Response: Jesus says that He (God) changes our hearts (Ezekial 26:36). When we are having a hard time being humble, ask Jesus to help you.

6. What is one thing you can do this week to make someone else more important than yourself?

- Response: clean a sibling's room, help with the dishes, make something for someone, hug a friend, brag on a friend, tie someone's shoe, help a friend with homework, invite someone

who's alone to sit or play with you.

7. Have you ever got in an argument about something that wasn't really that important? If it wasn't a big deal, why do you think you argued?

- Response: Let children respond.

8. What do we learn about God in this story?

- Response: God is humble, God is a servant, God is caring/loving, God is gracious, God is a teacher, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "What great answers to these questions! Let's be thinking about how we can put other people first."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | "Who is the Greatest" Column Chart | "Who is the Greatest" Sort | Glue Sticks | Scissors |

Say, "Let's look at the kind of heart God wants to give us (pure and humble). We have a 'Who is the Greatest?' sort we will each be completing. Remember, in the passage we read today, Jesus said the 'greatest' person is the one willing to be 'the last of all and servant of all.'"

- Give everyone (or each pair) a column chart and a cutout sort page.
- Read through each action with the class and let them sort the prideful actions from the humble ones.

MODIFICATIONS: Children can buddy up if they have trouble reading the sort. You could also do this as a whole group activity by writing the category names on a board and letting children take turns assigning the actions under "humble" or "prideful."

TRANSITION: Say, "Awesome job with the sort! We can see now that **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure**. Let's practice this month's memory verse."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Explain that we will be practicing a new memory verse this month that reminds us to ask God for a pure heart. First, say the verse by yourself as you demonstrate the actions. Then, have the kids practice with you. Finally, ask for volunteers who would like to try it by themselves.

"Create (pretend you are shaping a piece of clay) in me a pure heart (make a heart shape with your hands), O God (point up)." Psalm 51:10a (NIV) (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Children can write down the verse on individual whiteboards to aid their memorization. This is an excellent technique for reading/writing learners.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**Jesus wants to make our hearts pure!** The Bible says that without Jesus, our hearts are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), and we can't trust them. But in Ezekial 36:26, God says He can give us NEW hearts! He gives us hearts that love Him and His ways. Let's ask Jesus to make our hearts pure. We can even pray

our memory verse. Does anyone need prayer today? Let's pray over our friends! Who will start our prayer? Great! I will close us."

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Jesus, we pray for pure hearts. Help us put others first. Teach us to be servants of other people. We ask you to create in us a pure heart, God. Thank You for hearing our prayers and answering them in better ways than we could think to ask! In the lovely name of Jesus. Amen."*

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, have the children practice their memory verse again, replay the ENGAGE game, etc. When parents arrive, give them a copy of the monthly Parent Guide (downloadable).

Explain that the guide:

1. provides engaging questions and activities for family discipleship.
2. reviews what the children are learning each week.

Don't forget to tell each parent at least one encouraging thing about their child today!

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

“If anyone wants to be the most important, then he must be the last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35 (ICB)

Jesus wants to make our hearts pure!

HUMBLE	PRIDEFUL

DIRECTIONS: Cut out each box on the solid black line and glue it into the appropriate box labeled either "HUMBLE" or "PRIDEFUL." Use the words of Jesus to help you know which box to glue it into.

I OPEN THE DOOR FOR MY WHOLE CLASS AND LET EVERYONE GO IN BEFORE ME.	I SERVE SOMEONE FOOD AT LUNCH WHEN THEY NEED HELP.
I RUN TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE.	I DON'T HELP ANYONE WHO IS NOT MY FRIEND.
I BEAT MY FRIEND IN AN EATING CONTEST AND THEN BRAG ABOUT HOW I WON.	I LET ANOTHER PERSON USE THE BATHROOM BEFORE ME.
I HELP SOMEONE CLEAN UP THEIR MESS WHO IS HAVING A HARD TIME CLEANING.	I LET ANOTHER FRIEND HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP THE TEACHER.
I POINT OUT THE GREAT THINGS THAT MY FRIENDS DO.	I TELL EVERYONE WHY I AM THE BEST.

