



HEARTWORK

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT THE HEART

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 9:33-35 (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?” | Crayons | Small Heart Stickers | Individual Whiteboards and Markers (Optional) |

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

Make worshipping with your kids a priority! Worship is formational and foundational. Worship trains us to refocus our attention to God, and it reminds us of how great He is.



IF YOU'VE NEVER KNEELED IN WORSHIP WITH YOUR CLASS, MODEL IT THIS WEEK. CHOOSE A SLOWER SONG AND SAY, “KNEELING IS ONE WAY WE CAN WORSHIP GOD AND SHOW HIM WE LOVE HIM. WHO WILL TRY IT WITH ME?”

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 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 OUR PRE-WRITTEN PRAYERS. SPEAK FROM THE HEART. IT'S GOOD FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN THAT PRAYER DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT. KIDS LEARN TO PRAY FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

REVIEW – 5 MINUTES

Reviewing is easier if you have the puzzle pieces hung somewhere where everyone can see it. Use them for reviewing.

BACKGROUND: Say, “Do you remember last month when we talked about the stories of Jesus? We heard some incredible parables! Well, this month, we are starting brand-new lessons called ‘Heartwork.’ Over the next four weeks, we’re going to see what Jesus taught about our hearts. Jesus loves our hearts a lot! He loves them so much that He talked about our hearts ALL the time because **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure!** Who wants to put our first puzzle piece up on the wall for this month?”

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 called “Who is the Greatest?” Who thinks they are the greatest (Keep this moment lighthearted)? Hmm... well, we’re about to find out!”

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

HOW TO PLAY:

Children will order themselves from “least to greatest” by:

- Age
- Height
- Shoe Size
- Arm Length

CHALLENGE: After they complete the first scenario, have the kids order themselves without talking.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job ordering yourself from least to greatest! Let’s see who the greatest person is according to Jesus.”

LEARN – 15 MINUTES

Say, “We’re going to read in the Bible about a time when twelve of Jesus’ followers were arguing about who was best. Have you ever wanted to be the best? It’s normal to want to be better than everyone, but Jesus had something surprising to tell His arguing friends.” Read Mark 9:33-35 (ICB).



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.”

Say, "Wow! That story is a little bit confusing! Jesus says if we want to be the greatest, we need to be last. Wait... WHAT?!"

- Ask, "Who is normally the greatest person? Right! The smartest people, the famous people, the ones who win, and the strongest people."

"But Jesus taught something different, and it's nothing like how we think. He says, if you want to be the greatest, you must **serve** other people. When we serve others, we help them do something, or we let them go first or have the best toy. Jesus says we should serve others as He served us. Did you know that Jesus loves us so much that He died on a cross to save us? No one has ever served like Jesus, but He can help us be like Him! He can help us WANT to serve others!"

TRANSITION: Say, "Jesus wants to help us by making our hearts pure. He wants us to serve!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Wow! Jesus has so much to teach us about our hearts! Let's talk more about our story."

1. What were the disciples arguing about?

Response: They argued about who was the greatest follower.

2. How did Jesus say we become great?

Response: A person who serves like Jesus serves will be great.

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

Response: Jesus wants to give us a pure heart that serves.

4. 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 (Ezekiel 26:36). We can ask Jesus to help us.

5. What is one thing you can do this week to serve someone else?

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 alone to sit or play with you.

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

Response: God knows everything; God serves us; God teaches us, etc.

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

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | "Who is the Greatest?" | Crayons | Small Heart Stickers (4 per child) |

Say, "Today, we are going to do an activity where we have to find the greatest person—according to Jesus! Remember, in the passage we read today, Jesus said the greatest people are the ones who are 'the last of all and servant of all.' It's the ones who serve."

- Give each child a “Who is the Greatest?” activity.
- Help the children discover who the greatest person is in each scenario (or picture) and put a red heart over them to signify a pure serving heart.
- Once all of the “greatest” people in each scenario have been identified with a heart sticker, allow the children to color in the remainder of the activity sheet.

TRANSITION: Say, “Awesome job discovering who the ‘greatest’ person is according to Jesus. Now, 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 it 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: Have the children draw pictures of the verse on whiteboards. For example, they could draw a person, a heart, and a cross (to represent God). Then, have them point to the appropriate picture as you recite the verse together.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “**Jesus wants to make our hearts pure!** God says He can give us NEW hearts (Ezekiel 36:26)! He gives us hearts that love Him and want to obey Him. Let’s ask Jesus to help our hearts serve. We can even pray our memory verse.” Ask for any prayer requests.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Jesus, help us put others first, and teach us to serve. We ask that you 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).

GUIDE EXPLANATION:

1. It provides engaging questions and activities for family discipleship.
2. It 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!



