



HEARTWORK

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT THE HEART

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

THE RICH YOUNG MAN

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 19:16-17, 20-22 (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 | Need/Want Labels | Needs/Want Pictures | Tape | Large Heart Cutout |
| Construction Paper | Pencils | Scissors |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite board game?
- What is your favorite T.V. show?



IF YOU DO NOT KNOW EACH CHILD'S BIRTHDAY, FIND OUT FROM THEIR PARENTS OR THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER SO YOU CAN ACKNOWLEDGE EACH ONE ON THEIR SPECIAL DAY.

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

If you've never done it in class, finish the worship time lying on your backs. End with a slower song and say, "We can worship God all the time and in different ways. Sometimes we sing loud or raise our hands, and other times we rest and are quiet. Being still and relaxed might even help you think about how good God is. So, we're going to end our worship time right now by lying on our backs while we sing quietly and praise God for how much He loves us. Let's try it."

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children together for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for being with us. Please make our hearts pure. Change us as we hear Your Word. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Review the puzzle story pieces on the wall.

BACKGROUND: Say, “Last week we started a new unit called ‘Heartwork.’ In this series, we are talking about how God can make our hearts pure and holy! Do you remember last week when we talked about the story, ‘Who is the Greatest?’ Jesus’ disciples had some heart problems! They were fighting over who was the most important disciple, but that’s not what Jesus wanted for them. And fighting over who is the best isn’t what He wants for us either. Jesus taught that the one who is greatest in His Kingdom is the one who is humble and has a pure heart. Today, we are going to learn about the heart of another person in the Bible. Let’s put up our second story piece for the month! Who would like to place it on the wall?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s play a game to help us get ready to hear God’s Word!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Need/Want Labels | Need/Want Pictures | Tape |

Say, “Today, we will be playing a game about needs and wants. If you were here last week, you might remember the sorting activity we did where we decided if actions indicated a humble heart or a proud heart. Today we’re going to do something similar. Check it out...”

GAME GOAL: To help children understand the difference between their needs and their wants.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Tape the “Need” label to the wall on one side of the room and the “Want” label on the opposite wall.
- Instruct the children to stand in the middle of the room.
- Show the “Need/Want” pictures one at a time, saying, “Is this a need or a want?”
- After you show each picture, instruct children to walk either to the “Need” or “Want” side of the room depending on which side they think signifies the correct answer.
- *Optional:* After each question, briefly ask one child from each side to explain why they chose to stand where they did.
- If more people from the class get it right, then give yourselves a point.
- Review each right answer and explain why you classified it as a “Need” or a “Want.”
- **FINAL PRODUCT:** “Needs” include water, food, home, and clothes. The “Wants” include TV, cell phone, play station, bed, couch, toys, and chocolate.

TRANSITION: Say, “You did a great job with the game! Now, let’s read our story to figure out what it had to do with our needs and wants.”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we will read about a rich young man who meets Christ. Jesus loved to teach about people’s hearts because He knows that unless God changes us, our hearts will always be evil. Let’s see what happens to the man in our story. Open up your Bibles to Matthew 19:16-17, 20-22 (ICB).”

16 A man came to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to have life forever (*go to heaven*)?” 17 Jesus answered, “Why do you ask me about what is good? Only God is good. But if you want to have life forever, obey the commands.”[b] 20 The young man said, “I have obeyed all these things. What else do I need to do?” 21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, then go and sell all the things you own. Give the money to the poor. If you do this, you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me!” 22 But when the young man heard this, he became very sad because he was very rich. So he left Jesus.



CLARIFY THAT JESUS ISN'T ASKING US TO GIVE ALL OF OUR "WANTS" UP. HE'S HELPING US DEVELOP HEARTS THAT LOVE HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING OR ANYONE ELSE.

Say, “Wow! That was a fascinating story. The rich man had a heart problem, didn’t he!? The man said he followed all the commandments, but Jesus wanted more than that. Jesus knew the sin in the rich young man’s heart; He knew the man loved his money and possessions (stuff) more than he loved God! Having a pure heart means that we love God most of all. The rich man was greedy, though, and did not want to give up his possessions to follow Jesus. So, he left sad. Did you know that’s what sin does? When we follow our deceitful hearts, the things we think will make us happy end up making us miserable. Jesus knew the only thing that would make this man happy was to follow God.”

“Jesus doesn’t want us to be greedy. He wants us to have generous and giving hearts that love to share our things with others. Generosity is a trait of a pure heart, and **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.**”

TRANSITION: “To fight the greed in our hearts, Jesus invites us to be generous. **Jesus wants our hearts to be pure.**”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, “Let’s talk about our story together.”

1. What kind of heart does Jesus offer us?

Response: He wants us to have a pure heart that is generous and loves Him most of all.

2. Is Jesus telling us to sell everything we own and give it to the poor?

Response: No, Jesus knew this man had a heart problem and loved his money and possessions more than he loved God. Jesus was showing the man that he had made an idol of his riches.

3. Why did the rich man walk away sad?

Response: He didn’t want to give all of his stuff away. He realized he loved money more than anything else. There is nothing that will make us happy if we don’t put Jesus first.

4. What do you think the game where we chose between “needs” and “wants” had to do with this story?

Response: It helps us remember that much of what we think we need isn’t essential. The big lesson, though, is that we need Jesus more than anything else!

5. What are some ways you can be generous this week?

- Response: I can give one of my friends one of my toys I know they like; I can joyfully watch a movie or play a game that wasn't my choice; I can give my chore money to someone who needs it; I can use my free time to help my parents around the house.

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

Response: God is good, God is generous, God is caring, God is patient, God can change us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Thank you for the great discussion! I hope you'll share some of the ways you want to be generous with your parents. Maybe you could even do some of them together!"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Large Heart Cutout | Construction Paper (Any Color) | Pencils | Scissors | Tape |

Say, "Now, let's continue to think about generosity as we make this craft."



USING A LARGE POSTER OR LARGE SHEET OF PAPER, DRAW AND/OR CUT OUT THE SHAPE OF A HEART. TAPE THE HEART TO THE WALL IN THE CLASS. THE HEART SHOULD BE BIG ENOUGH TO FIT ALL YOUR STUDENT'S HANDPRINTS INSIDE.

- Give each person a piece of construction paper, scissors, and a pencil. Have them trace their hand on the paper.
- Then, have them cut out their handprint and write one thing they can do this week to be generous to someone.
- Put a small piece of tape on the back of each "generosity handprint" and allow each child to attach them to the large heart.
- After everyone places their handprints on the heart, read them to the class.

TRANSITION: Say, "I love all of our handprints on this heart! You've given some incredible ideas on how we can love others by being generous. Everyone can take their handprint home with them to remind them how they can be generous this week. Remember, **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure**. Now, let's practice this month's memory verse together."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Explain that we will be practicing a memory verse this month that reminds us to ask God for a pure heart. Say, "Let's say the verse for this month together."

"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: You could also play a game like "Bop It" to reinforce verse memorization. In this activity, each child recites a specific word of the verse when they are lightly "bopped" on the head. You could also take turns allowing each child to be the "bopper."

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Jesus wants to make our hearts pure, and He knows exactly how to do it. Jesus can make our hearts humble and generous if we ask Him! Let's pray that Jesus will make us more like Himself."

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Jesus, please create a pure heart in every person here. Help us be more generous. Teach us to care about You and other people more than ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, have the children practice their memory verse again or make more "generosity handprints."

NEEDS / WANTS ACTIVITY

NEEDS

WANTS

NEEDS / WANTS ACTIVITY



NEEDS / WANTS ACTIVITY



NEEDS / WANTS ACTIVITY



