



HEARTWORK

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT THE HEART

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

MARTHA'S ANGER WITH MARY

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 10:38-42 (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 | JESUS Puzzle | Scissors | Puzzle Heart Worksheet | Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- If you could see any animal in the world, which one would you see? Why?
- What is your favorite place to go out to eat?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Change things up by distributing children's musical instruments (maracas, tambourines, small drums, etc.). As the children play along with the songs, explain that God loves it when we sing AND when we play our instruments for Him.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children together for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for being a God who is always with us—even without us asking. Change our hearts to be pure like Yours! Help us understand what You want us to learn from the Bible story today. In Jesus' name, Amen."



REMIND THE CHILDREN THAT PRAYER TIME IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF OUR DAY, BECAUSE WE ARE ENTERING INTO A CONVERSATION WITH GOD AND LEARNING TO TRUST HIM WITH OUR NEEDS.

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Prepare for the lesson by reviewing the previous puzzle story pieces.



IF CHILDREN ARE HAVING A HARD TIME TRANSITIONING FROM ONE ACTIVITY TO ANOTHER, COME UP WITH A SIGNAL OR SOUND THAT LETS THE CHILDREN KNOW IT'S TIME TO STOP WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND START SOMETHING ELSE.

BACKGROUND: Say, “We are in the third week of our ‘Heartwork’ lessons. In this series, we’ve been talking about having pure hearts! Jesus teaches a lot about our hearts. Do you remember in the first week, we talked about the story, “Who is the Greatest?” The disciples of Jesus were prideful only thinking of themselves, but Jesus called them to be a servant like He is. Last week, we learned about the rich young ruler’s greed and how Jesus wants to make our hearts generous instead. Did anyone do something generous this week? Today, we will read another story about pure hearts. Let’s put up our third story piece for the month! Who would like to place it on the wall?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Alright, let’s prepare for our story!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | JESUS Puzzle | Crayons | Scissors |



CUT OUT THE “JESUS” PUZZLE PIECES BEFORE STARTING CLASS
SO NO ONE WILL SEE WHAT IT SPELLS.

Say, “Today, we are going to solve a mystery!”

- Give everyone a piece of the JESUS puzzle.
- Tell the children to decorate their own puzzle piece any way they want to EXCEPT for the places with a black “x.”
- Each time the children see a black “x,” they must completely color that spot/section in black.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job on your decorating! Now hand me your puzzle pieces, and we will solve our mystery with them after we read our story.”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | JESUS Puzzle Pieces (from the ENGAGE activity) |

Say, “Today, we will read about two women named Mary and Martha. God uses their story to teach us a lesson about our hearts. Remember our big idea as we read: **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.** Let’s see what Jesus has to teach us. Open your Bibles to Luke 10:38-42 (ICB).”

38 While Jesus and his followers were traveling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house. 39 Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to him teach. 40 Martha became angry because she had so much work to do. She went in and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me!” 41 But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things. 42 Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will never be taken away from her.”

Say, “Hmmm, it sounds like Martha has a heart problem.”

- Ask, "Why was Martha angry?"



HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THAT NOT ALL ANGER IS SINFUL. HOWEVER, AS WE'VE BEEN LEARNING, MOST THINGS DONE IN SELFISHNESS ARE WRONG. THIS WAS THE TYPE OF ANGER MARTHA HAD IN THIS STORY.

"Martha's sin wasn't that she was serving Jesus. Instead, it was her anger toward Mary. Her second problem is that she had made her work more important than being with the Lord. Jesus is always concerned for our hearts, and whatever we love most with our hearts will show up in how we act. Jesus knows we will only find joy and contentment when being with Him is more important than anything else, even a beautiful home, a delicious meal, or worrying about others."

"We are a lot like Martha, aren't we? We get frustrated when things don't go our way or when others don't do what we think they should. When that happens, remember that anger and frustration can be a sign that Jesus isn't most important to us. At that moment, return to Jesus. Whenever we pray, read our Bibles, or worship Him, we are spending time with Him. Jesus wants us to be content and not have anger in our hearts. Who can tell me what content means? Great answers! We are content when our minds and hearts are joyful and at peace no matter what is going on in our lives."

BUILD THE PUZZLE: Use the puzzle pieces from the ENGAGE section to build the puzzle. It will spell out JESUS (who brings contentment).

Say, "Martha should've been content, but instead, she was angry at Mary. **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure** by being content. Let's build our puzzle together to discover who can bring us TRUE contentment (joy/at peace)."

TRANSITION: Say, "Only Jesus can give us real contentment that lasts. The good news is He wants to give that to us, because as we keep saying: **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure**. Jesus, make our hearts content!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Let's discuss our story from today."

1. How did Martha feel when Mary was not helping her?

- Response: Martha was angry.

2. What was Mary doing while Martha served Jesus?

- Response: Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him teach.

3. Have you ever felt angry or upset at someone for not helping you?

- Response: Let children respond.

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

- Response: He wants us to have a content heart.

5. What are some ways Jesus helps us become content?

- Response: Spending time with Jesus (i.e., worship, Bible reading) helps us find contentment. Because we know Jesus wants this for us, we can also pray, asking Him to

change our hearts.

6. What should we do when we feel angry with someone else?

- Response: We can always pray! Jesus can help us love the right things.

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

- Response: God is patient, God loves us, God is gentle, God is a good listener, God wants to change our hearts.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great discussion! Let's ask God to help us be content in Him this week. Are you ready for our next activity?"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Heart Worksheet | Crayons |

Say, "Today, we are going to create a "pure" heart on our handout. Let me show you what I mean."

- Give everyone a Heart Worksheet with black and red crayons.
- Children should color the words RED that describe contentment.
- Then, have them color any word that describes anger or selfishness BLACK.



FOR MORE DIFFICULT WORDS, HELP DEFINE THEM WITH THE CLASS.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job! These hearts can help us remember 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 memory verse this month that reminds us to ask God for a pure heart. By this time, many of the children should be able to say the verse by memory.

"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: Offer to let individual children lead the memory verse practice this week.



GIVING CHALLENGING CHILDREN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CAN HELP LESSEN DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIORS.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

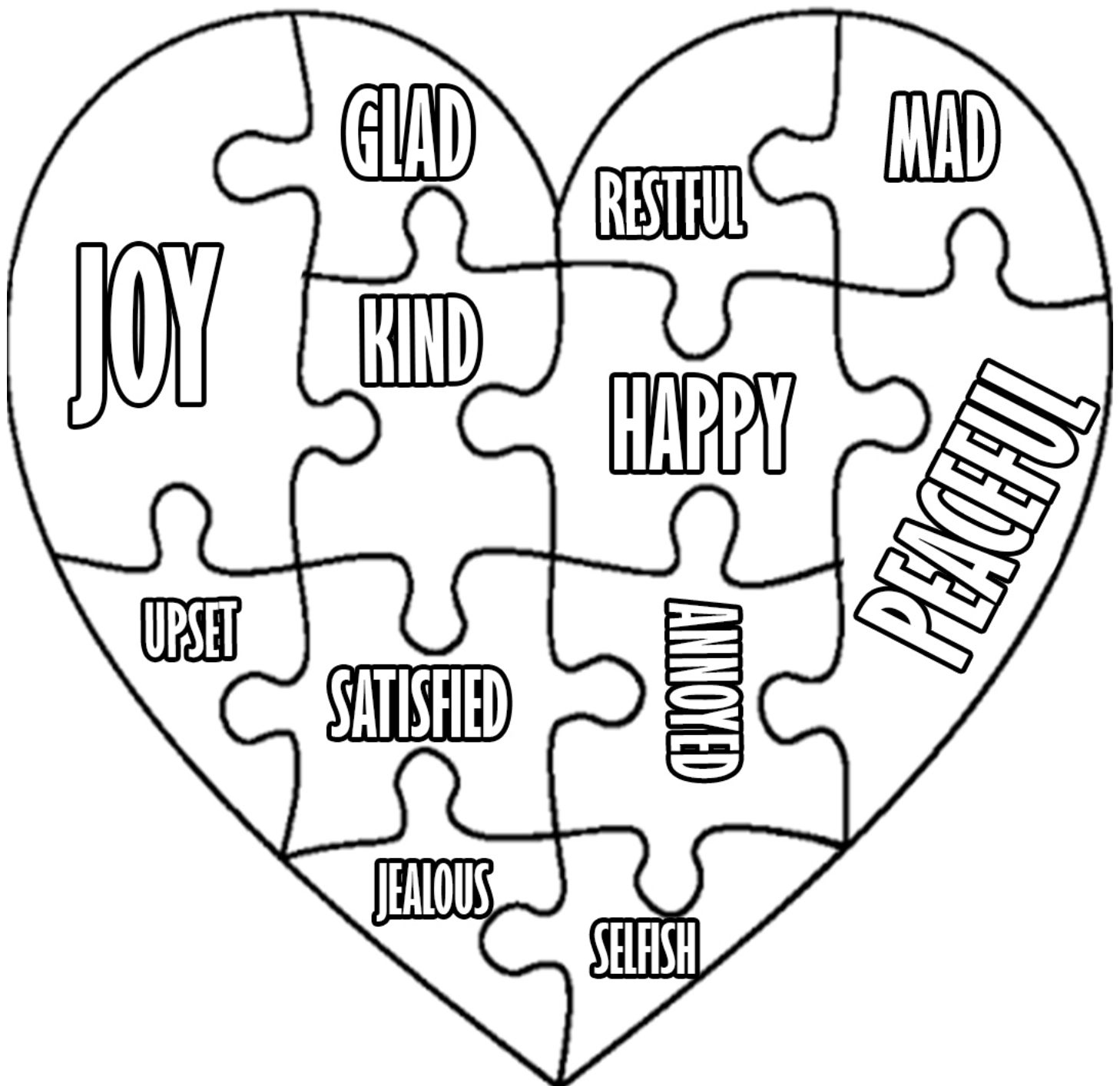
Say, "Let's pray that Jesus will change our hearts and make them pure."

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, please give us pure hearts that love You. We are sorry for the times we've been angry or made other things more important than You. Forgive us and help us be content. In Jesus' name, Amen."

RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, review the story by acting it out or practice the memory verse again with one of the games from the previous weeks.

HEART PUZZLE



JESUS PUZZLE

