

# PARENT GUIDE

## HEARTWORK

### BIG IDEA:

Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.

### VERSE:

“Create in me a pure heart, O God.” Psalm 51:10

**WEEK 1:** Who is the Greatest? (Luke 9:46-48)

**WEEK 2:** The Rich Young Man (Matthew 19:12-22)

**WEEK 3:** Martha’s Anger with Mary (Luke 10:38-42)

**WEEK 4:** The Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

This month, we are in the unit called “HEARTWORK: What Jesus Says About the Heart.” Our kids must know that Jesus cares more about the condition of our hearts than the works we do to please Him.

### PARENTS:

Read one verse at a time from the list below and discuss it with your children. Each one talks about the heart. This activity works great as a devotional. You can read a verse daily, every other day, or weekly.

**HEART VERSES:** Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 27:19, Jeremiah 17:9-10, 1 Peter 3:3-4, Jeremiah 29:13, Psalm 51:10, 1 Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 37:4, Matthew 6:21, Proverbs 3:1-2, Proverbs 10:8, Psalm 90:12, Psalm 119:2, Ezekiel 36:26, Psalm 147:3, Matthew 5:8, Romans 5:5, Proverbs 12:25, Psalm 9:1, Psalm 119:11, Proverbs 23:15, Hebrews 3:12

### CONVERSATION STARTERS:

1. What can we learn about our hearts from this verse?
2. What does this verse mean to you?

Pray that God would give you and your family a pure heart.

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# 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 | Angry/Joyful Heart Cutouts | Brass Fasteners | Crayons | Scissors |

## 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."*



REMINDE THE CHILDREN THAT PRAYER TIME IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF OUR DAY, BECAUSE WE GET TO TALK WITH GOD. EXPLAIN THAT A CONVERSATION ISN'T ONE-SIDED. WE TALK TO JESUS AND LISTEN TO HIM.

## 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 had a heart problem. Jesus wanted His followers to serve like He does, not try to be the greatest. Then last week, we learned about the rich young ruler and how Jesus wants us to love Him more than anything else. Today, we will read another story about pure hearts. Let’s put up our third puzzle piece for the month! Who would like to place it onto the wall?”

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

## ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we are going to be playing a game called ‘Only One Thing.’ Let’s play it together!”

**GAME GOAL:** Children must only choose one item as the most important object in each scenario.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Read off the list of scenarios (below). The children will choose which item they think is MOST important from each list. \*Correct answers are bolded.
- After the children answer, ask them to explain why they chose that answer.
- Finally, reveal the correct answer and explain why it is the most important.

1. If you were stuck on a boat in the middle of the ocean, which item would be most important? **a bottle of water**, a T.V., or a suitcase
2. If you were trapped outside in the pouring rain, which item would be most important? soccer shoes, gloves, or **an umbrella**
3. If you didn’t know how to swim, which item would be most important? a swimsuit, **a floatie**, or goggles
4. If it was nighttime and dark outside, which item would be most important? sunglasses, a dog, or **a flashlight**
5. If you lived outside in the ice and snow, which item would be most important? a cell phone, **a coat**, or a shovel
6. If you were sick, which item would be most important? **medicine**, a toothbrush, cereal

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job choosing the most important things! Sometimes we get confused and think everything is important when only one thing is TRULY important. Let’s read our story to see what Jesus says is important!”

## LEARN – 15 MINUTES

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.” Read Luke 10:38-42 (ICB) from your Bible.

**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 problem with her heart."

- Ask, "Why do you think Martha was angry at Mary? Have you ever been mad at a sibling or a friend?"



SAY, "NOT ALL ANGER IS Å/SINFUL. HOWEVER, SELFISHNESS CAN CAUSE US TO BE ANGRY FOR THE WRONG REASONS. THIS WAS THE TYPE OF ANGER MARTHA HAD IN THIS STORY." BEFORE YOU MOVE ON, ASK THE CHILDREN TO GIVE YOU EXAMPLES OF SELFISHNESS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE COMPREHENDING THE LESSON.

"Martha's sin wasn't that she was serving Jesus. Instead, the problem was her anger toward Mary. Her work had become more important than being with Jesus. Jesus loves our hearts, and whatever is most important in our hearts will show up in how we act. Jesus wants us to be joyful and not have anger in our hearts. We can ask Jesus to help us focus on joy through prayer and worship."

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Only Jesus can give us joy that lasts. **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.** Having a pure heart means that we love Jesus most of all!"

## 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 heart does Jesus want us to have?

Response: He wants us to have a pure and joyful heart.

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

Response: We can always pray that Jesus will turn our anger to joy! Jesus can help us love the right things like He helped Martha.

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

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

**TRANSITION:** Say, "What a great discussion! Let's ask God for pure hearts filled with joy that can only come from Him. Are you ready for our next activity?"

## RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Angry/Joyful Heart Cutouts | Brass Fasteners (3 per child) | Crayons | Scissors |

Say, "Today, we are going to create an angry heart that turns joyful. Let me show you what I mean."



PRINT THE ANGRY/JOYFUL HEART CUTOUTS ON CARDSTOCK. ALSO, YOU CAN MAKE A SAMPLE SO THEY CHILDREN CAN VISUALIZE WHAT THEY ARE MAKING.

- Give everyone an Angry/Happy Heart Cutout.
- Have the children color and cut out the eyebrows, mouth, and heart.
- Place the eyebrows over the eyes, each held down with a brass fastener in the middle.
- Next, place a brass fastener in the middle of the mouth and fasten it underneath the nose.
- **FINAL PRODUCT:** By tilting the eyebrows in toward each other and turning the mouth into a frown, you can make the heart angry. By tilting the eyebrows up and turning the mouth into a smile, you can make the heart joyful.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job! These hearts can help us remember that Jesus wants to make our hearts pure and joyful. Let's practice this month's memory verse together."

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Explain that we'll be practicing a memory verse for the 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

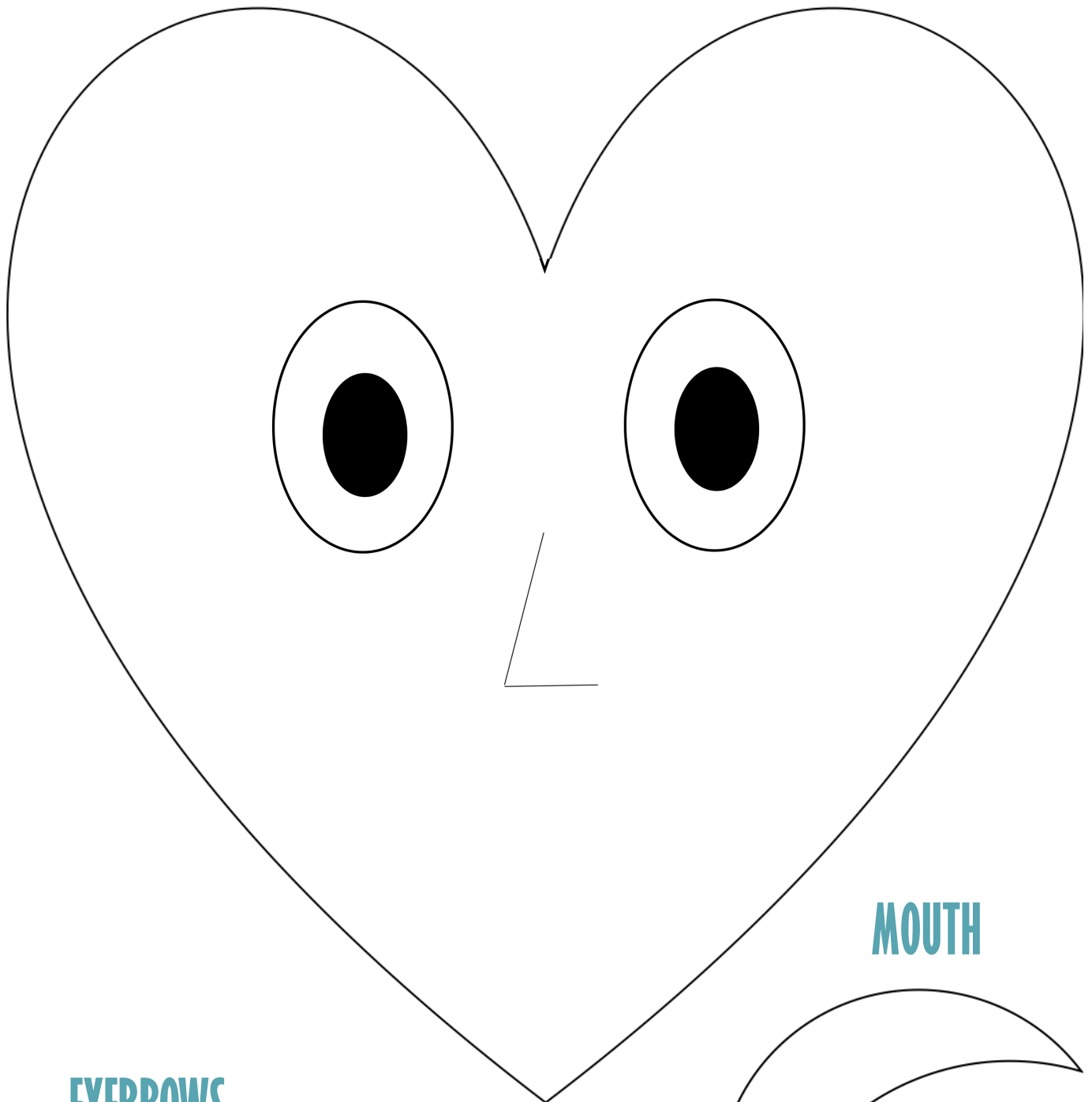
Say, "Let's pray that Jesus will change our hearts and make them pure, just like His."

**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. Help us to be joyful instead of angry. Forgive us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

## RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, recite the memory verse again, or replay “Only One Thing,” but this time have the kids come up with the three items.

# ANGRY/JOYFUL HEART



**MOUTH**

**EYEBROWS**

