



# HEARTWORK

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT THE HEART

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

# THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 18:23-30, 32-33 (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 | Crown | Unforgiveness and Forgiveness Hearts | Crayons |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What are your plans for the rest of the day?
- What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “God wants us to worship Him with our whole selves. We have talked about raising our hands, dancing, and kneeling in worship, but did you know we can also worship Him with our minds (our thoughts)? Before we sing today, let’s think about why we love God and say those things aloud to one another. (It will be helpful if you begin with some examples, like “I love God because He gives me special friends like you!” or “I love God because He is powerful and made our whole world!”) Then, we’ll worship Him through music!”

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children together for prayer.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “Jesus, thank You for being a God who loved us before we ever loved You. Thank You for welcoming us into Your family when we were still sinners. Father, would you make us more like You? Change our hearts and make them pure. Help us understand what You want to teach us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



REMINDE THE CHILDREN THAT THERE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SCRIPT FOR OUR PRAYERS. TEACH THEM THAT THEY CAN PRAY WHILE KNEELING, STANDING, OR WALKING. GOD WANTS TO HEAR FROM US ALL THE TIME!

## REVIEW – 5 MINUTES



IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN YOUR CLASS WHO DON'T COMPLY WITH DIRECTIONS, GIVE THEM "LEADERSHIP ROLES." FOR EXAMPLE, SAY, "I NEED YOUR HELP WITH A SUPER IMPORTANT JOB." YOU CAN HAVE THEM PASS OUT PAPERS, STACK CHAIRS, CLEAN UP, ORGANIZE TOYS, PREPARE LESSON MATERIALS, ETC.

**BACKGROUND:** Say, "This is our final 'Heartwork' lesson for the month. In this series, we've been talking about what it means to have a pure heart! In our first week, we discussed the story, 'Who is the Greatest?' and how we need God's help to love and serve others. In the second week, we learned about the rich young ruler and how Jesus wants to help give us pure hearts that love Him most of all. Finally, last week, we talked about how Martha should've had a joyful heart instead of an angry heart towards Mary. She needed Jesus to transform her heart, too, didn't she? Let's put up our last puzzle piece for the month! Who wants to place it on the wall?"

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Alright, let's play a game as we prepare for God's story!"

## ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Crown (Plastic or Paper) |

Say, "In today's story, Jesus talks about a king, and we know that when kings declare/say something, it has to happen! So for our activity, we will be playing a game like Simon Says, but we're going to call it King Says! Who wants to be our first 'king?'"

**GAME GOAL:** Each child must follow the king's actions. If they do not obey everything the king says, they're out!

**HOW TO PLAY:**

- Choose one person to be the "king" and give them the crown to wear.
- The "king" will call out actions like "touch your head," "jump up and down," "clap your hands," etc.
- When the "king" uses the words, "The king says..." everyone must comply.
- When the "king" does not use "The king says..." in front of the command, no one should comply.
- If someone even starts an action without the king saying, "The king says..." then they're out! (Before you begin, establish what it means to be "out." For example, do you want the children to sit down, return to their seats, or something else once they are declared "out?")
- When there is one child left, they are declared the winner of that round and can become the next "king" or choose another "king."
- Give all the children a turn to be the "king" if you have time.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job, everyone! Let's read our story together about a good, good king!"

## LEARN – 15 MINUTES

Say, "Jesus is the best teacher, and He explains things in ways we can understand. Jesus is trying to teach His followers an important lesson about their hearts, and He uses a king as an example in today's

story. Let's read to see what God wants to teach us about our hearts today." Read from Matthew 18:23-30, 32-33 (ICB).



THIS STORY IS A GREAT ONE TO ACT OUT. YOU COULD REUSE THE CROWN FROM THE GAME "KING SAYS" TO HELP YOU ACT OUT THE STORY. ALSO, INCLUDE A VISUAL THAT REPRESENTS MONEY. PROPS HELP CHILDREN FOLLOW THE STORY.

**23 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him. 24 So the king began to collect his money. One servant owed him several million dollars. 25 But the servant did not have enough money to pay his master, the king. So the master (king) ordered that everything the servant owned should be sold..."**

**26 "But the servant fell on his knees and begged, 'Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.' 27 The master felt sorry for his servant. So the master told the servant he did not have to pay. He let the servant go free. 28 "Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him (only) a few dollars. The servant grabbed the other servant around the neck and said, 'Pay me the money you owe me!' 29 "The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.'**

**30 "But the first servant refused to be patient. He threw the other servant into prison until he could pay everything he owed. 32 "Then the master (king) called his servant in and said, 'You evil servant...33 I had mercy (forgiveness) on you. You should have had the same mercy on that other servant.'**

Say, "That's an interesting story. It sounds like the servant had a pretty big heart problem. The king forgave his servant of a crazy amount of money, yet the servant couldn't forgive the man who owed him just a little bit of money."

- Ask, "Why do you think the king forgave the servant of such a large amount of money?" (Possible answers: the king was kind, the king knew the servant didn't have much money, the king wanted to help the servant, etc.)

"That king was pretty incredible, wasn't he? What about the servant? He had an unforgiving heart. But Jesus wants more than that for us. He wants to make our hearts pure and forgiving. Jesus wants us to forgive as this king forgave and He will forgive us too! In fact, God tells us that all we need to do is ask, and He will forgive us. What good news!"



BE HONEST AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FORGIVENESS CAN SOMETIMES BE HARD BUT REINFORCE THE TRUTH THAT IT'S ALWAYS POSSIBLE WITH GOD'S HELP! WE CAN FORGIVE BECAUSE JESUS FORGIVES US.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Pure hearts are hearts that are forgiving like the king. **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure.** Jesus teaches that we will be happiest when we forgive others.”

## DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, “Let’s discuss our story from today.”

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

Response: He wants us to have a forgiving heart.

**2. How much money did the King forgive the servant?**

Response: Several million dollars (that’s a lot!)

**3. What did the servant do that was wrong?**

Response: The servant wouldn’t forgive.

**4. Does the king in the story remind you of anyone?**

Response: Yes! The king sounds a lot like Jesus, doesn’t He? Jesus died on the cross so we could be forgiven (Isaiah 53:5).

**5. Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone? What happened?**

Response: Answers will vary.

**6. What do we do if we are having a hard time forgiving someone?**

Response: First, ask God to forgive you if you have been unwilling to forgive someone. Then, ask Him to help you forgive.

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

Response: God is our king, God is forgiving, God is loving, God is patient, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “What a good discussion! Let’s make sure we forgive as King Jesus forgives us—even to people who aren’t kind to us. Jesus knows forgiving others will make our hearts whole and happy! Now, let’s do an activity to help us remember this powerful story.”

## RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Unforgiveness and Forgiveness Hearts (1 per child) | Crayons |

Say, “We heard a wonderful story today about how Jesus wants to give His followers hearts that forgive. Our next activity is going to help us explore that idea a little more.”

- Instruct the children to color in their broken heart full of unforgiveness with dark, sad colors (black, brown, dark blue, gray, etc.)
- Next, let the children color in their heart full of forgiveness with bright and happy colors (yellow, red, pink, orange, etc.)



EXPLAIN THAT WHEN WE FORGIVE OTHERS, WE ARE SET FREE.  
ONCE WE FORGIVE, WE NO LONGER HAVE TO CARRY THE WEIGHT  
AND SADNESS OF UNFORGIVENESS.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Our hearts don’t have to feel dark and sad from unforgiveness, but they can be bright and beautiful by forgiving the people who hurt us. I’m so thankful Jesus loves us enough to change our

hearts. Keep this project as a reminder that **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure**. Let's practice this month's memory verse together."

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

By this time, your regularly attending children should be able to say the verse by memory. However, be intentional to make new children feel just as a part of this time as the kids who come every week. Say, "Let's practice our verse for the month. It's a fantastic reminder that **Jesus wants to make our hearts pure**."

*"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:** Since this is the last lesson with this memory verse, have children go around one-by-one repeating the verse with actions. Celebrate together once everyone has recited the verse from memory! By practicing this verse, you are hiding God's Word in the hearts of the children you disciple. Pray that the words and truth of this verse will never leave them.



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE SHY, HAVE A SPEECH IMPEDIMENT, ETC. DO NOT START DREADING COMING TO CLASS BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID THEY WILL BE FORCED TO SPEAK IN FRONT OF PEERS. IF GIVEN TIME, THEY MAY CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT.

## REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

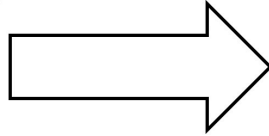
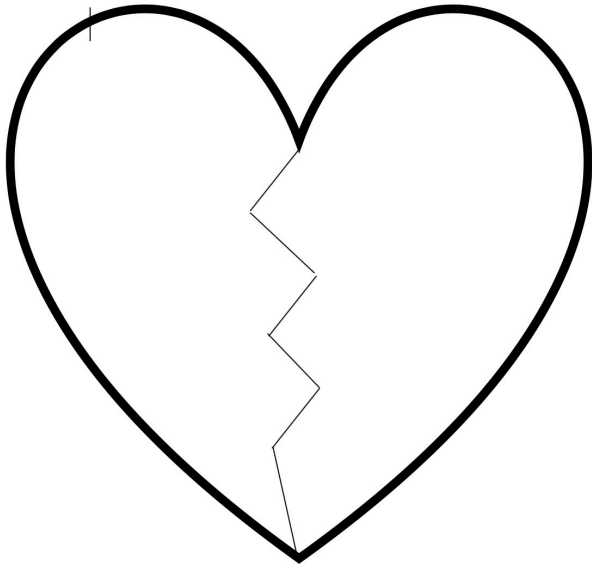
Say, "Because Jesus loves us, He wants to make our hearts pure. He can help us be people who forgive! Jesus wants to turn us into people who serve, give, are full of joy, and are forgiving (review meanings of words). Let's pray that Jesus makes us quick to forgive."

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *"Jesus, we praise You for Your love and kindness. Thank You for forgiving us, not just once, but over and over. Help us forgive others, even when it's hard. Finally, help us remember that when we sin, we can come to You because You love us so much. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

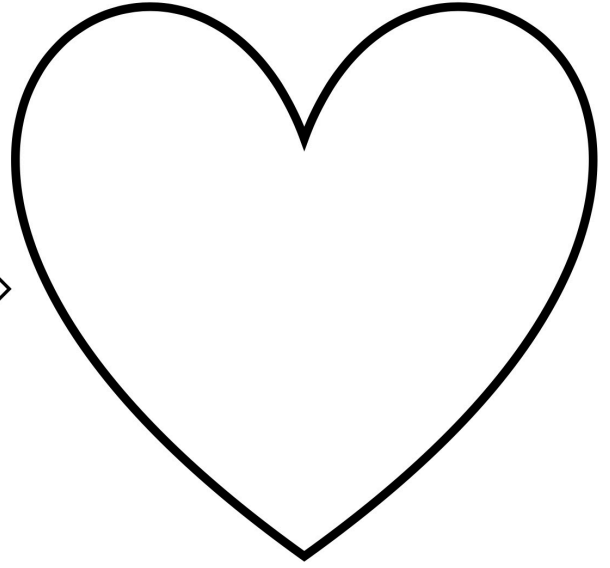
## RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, you can replay King Says, finish any incomplete crafts, or review the story.

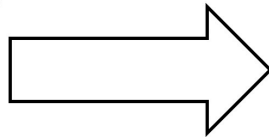
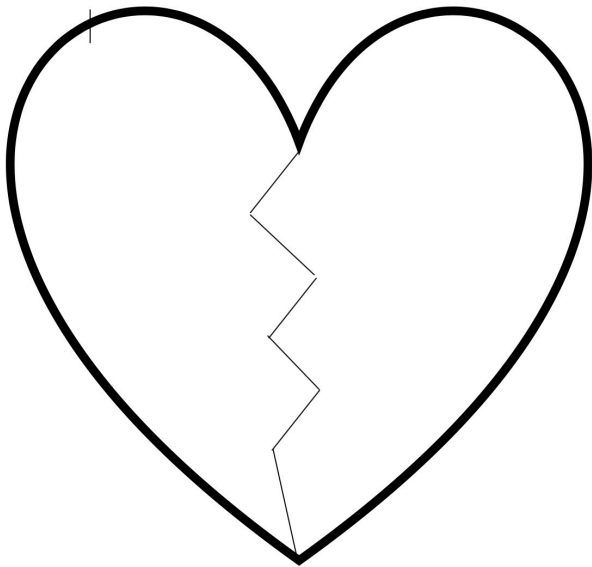
**UNFORGIVENESS**



**FORGIVENESS**



**UNFORGIVENESS**



**FORGIVENESS**

