



Bible Story: What Not to Do (Matthew 23:1-3; 25-28)

Today's Takeaway: I want my heart to match what I say and do.

Series Verse: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (James 1:2-3 NIV)

Weekly Verse: "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8 NLT)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What does it mean to be blessed? (Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever.)
- 2. What does it mean to be pure of heart? (We have invited Jesus to live in our hearts, so His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control fill our hearts.)
- 3. Do you ever have any dirty places in your heart? What do they look like?
- 4. Who can help you clean out the dirty places in your heart, and how does it feel when our hearts are clean?

Activity Ideas:

1. Get the Junk Out

What You Need:

- o 1 bin or bowl or bucket filled an equal amount with rice or beans or sugar or flour, etc.
- 5-10 little cereal piece or Goldfish or candies, etc. to mix into the contents of the bin to represent the sin or impurities that can get in our hearts and lives

What You Do:

- Have your child stand/ sit in front of the bin.
- Talk about how God wants our hearts to be clean and pure because that means they are healthy. A healthy heart can love and enjoy God and others, but a dirty / unhealthy heart cannot. It is too weighed down and full of junk to live the full life that God desires for us.
- Tell your child that the bin represents our hearts and they represent God's loving hands that are willingly to dig into our hearts and help us clean out the mess.
- When you say, "go" your child should dig into the bin to get all the impurities out as fast as they can. (Make sure to tell them how many impurities they need to get out).
- When they get them all out, they win!...And they can eat the "impurities" as their prize.
- Talk about what attitudes and actions God might need to clean out of our hearts and what attitudes and actions that He would put in their place

**If you want to add more movement to this activity, set the bin about 10 feet away from your child and have them run/ hop/ etc. to the bin, get out 1 impurity, run it back to their starting line, and then head back to the bin to get the next impurity. Continue like that until they have gotten all the impurities to their starting line one at a time. **

2. What's in Your Heart

What You Need:

o 1 piece of paper or cardstock, scissors, glue, and crayons/ markers/ colored pencils

What You Do:

- Cut two hearts out of the piece of paper for your child.
- Give them one heart and have them dirty it up. (You could let them take it outside and rub in in the dirt or mud, have them color on it with lots of colors, smear food on it...whatever works for your family)
- Next, write God in the middle of the other heart.
- Let them glue little pieces of paper, cereal pieces, small candies, etc. over the letters for God. (If you do not have glue, they could just trace over where you wrote God with crayons or markers or colored pencils).
- Compare the two hearts, and talk about how God wants us to have clean/ pure hearts so that we can live free and happy in Him! A clean heart is a healthy heart that can experience God's love and share it with others!
- Talk about what attitudes and actions come from a dirty heart, and what attitudes and actions come from a clean heart that loves God.
- Hang the hearts up somewhere that you all will see it often and remember that God blesses those with clean hearts.

Family Prayer:

Take a few minutes to pray as a family to wrap up your time together.