

## Lesson 23

# **The Hearts of Man**

God has provided forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

# Studying God's Word

## Introduction

Slide #3

Slide #4

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Refer to Lesson 21 Theme Poster. When Adam and Eve sinned, it affected all of us!

What was their sin? How did they disobey God? They ate the fruit God had commanded them not to eat.

That's right. And sin brought death, disease, suffering, pain, and sadness! The whole earth has suffered because of sin.

Is this how God created the universe? What did God say about his creation when he made it? It was very good.

But sin corrupted that very good creation. It was ruined, and things would never be the same.

Refer to Lesson 22 Theme Poster. It didn't take very long after the first sin for the first murder to happen.

Why did Cain kill his brother Abel? Cain was jealous of his brother and angry with him and God.

That's right. God punished Cain but also showed mercy to him. How did God show mercy? He did not kill Cain. He put a mark on Cain so no one would kill him.

Yes. Cain deserved to die, but God showed mercy to Cain after he sinned and let him live. Today we're going to talk more about sin, God's mercy, and how you can share these important things you're learning with others.

## Sin Entered the World

Pass out the Class Notes (PDF) to the students when appropriate.

I'm going to pass out some pictures to several of you to help us with our lesson today. Just hold on to them until it's time to put them on the board. Pass out the Lesson Illustrations (PDF) and have tape or poster putty available.

Sin is still all around us in the world today. We don't have to look far to see it—in others and in ourselves. We are all sinful! But many people don't believe this is true. Most people would probably say they are good people and don't need to believe in Jesus to go to heaven. But the Bible says that Jesus is the only way to God. Only those who put their trust in him and believe what the Bible says about him will have eternal life in heaven.

We've talked about this, so we know what the Bible says. But what about others like your friends at school or even people in your family? Do they know how to have their sins forgiven? If they don't, what should you tell them? One great way to tell someone about Jesus is to start with the bad news and end with the good news that we find only in the Bible.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. So let's start there. What is the bad news that people need to know?

Romans 5:12

Slide #5

Turn to Romans 5:12. Will someone read that? Assign a reader.

Slide #6

Sin entered the world through one man. Who is that man? Who was the first man to ever sin? Adam.

Right. But what else entered the world through sin? Reread the verse, emphasizing the answer. Death.

Where did death spread? To all men.

And who has sinned according to the last part of this verse? All sinned.

Slide #7

Who has the first picture with the word sin on it? Bring that up and put it on the board for us. Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration 1 to the board.

Refer to the Genesis . Adam was the first to sin. And because of that sin, death entered the world. And now all people sin, and all will die because of sin. Most people would rather not be known as a sinner. Some may argue and say, "But I'm a good person, I don't sin 'that bad'." Let's see what the Bible says about that.

Genesis 6:5

Slide #8

Our next verse takes us hundreds of years after Adam. When God looked on the earth, he saw something horrible! You will recognize this verse—it's our memory verse.

It is Genesis 6:5. Let's read it together from the Memory Verse Poster.

Read the verse or recite it together.

Wow! Things got a lot worse, didn't they? What did the Lord see in the earth? The wickedness of man was great.

The men were wicked and evil. What was it that was evil about the men on earth? Every intention of the thoughts of their hearts were evil.

This verse also says the thoughts of their hearts were evil "continually." What does "continually" mean? All the time.

Yes. Things just kept getting worse! When the Lord looked down, he saw that the world was wicked, and the people were evil all the time!

Let's start on our Class Notes (PDF). As we read each question, you will need to draw a line to the correct answer in the middle of the page.

Slide #9

Who will read #1 for us? It's on the "Bad News" side of the page. How many people have sinned since Adam and Eve first sinned? Assign a reader. All. Have students complete #1.

Now someone read #2 for us. What did God see in men's hearts? Assign a reader. Evil. Have students complete #2.

## **All Men Are Sinners**

Let's say the person you are sharing this news with says, "Well, I may do a few bad things once in a while, but I have a good heart." Many people think they really are good deep down inside. And they believe that they will find true happiness if they follow their heart.

But the Bible says something very different about our hearts.

Jeremiah 17:9

Slide #10

Turn to Jeremiah 17:9. This talks about man's heart. Assign a reader or read the verse.

What does this say about the heart? It is deceitful and desperately sick.

Wow! That means our hearts can't be trusted. It means our hearts are dishonest and sick with wickedness. We are not good, and we don't naturally want to obey God.

That doesn't sound like something we should follow, does it? Think about it. If we just trust our heart, which the Bible calls deceitful and sick, will it lead us to obey God, or will it lead us into sin and trouble? Allow discussion.

Slide #11

Let's answer #3 on the Class Notes (PDF). Who will read that for us? Should we follow our hearts? Assign a reader. Heart. Have students complete #3.

Let's say your friend says something like "Okay, so I do some things that are wrong sometimes, but I make up for it by doing lots of good things."

Is that true? Can we make up for sin by doing 10 good things every day? No.

Slide #12

Who has the second picture? Bring that up and read it for us. Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration 2 to the board.

Romans 3:10-11

Slide #13

Turn to Romans 3:10-11. Will someone read that? Assign readers.

In this verse, the word "righteous" means good. Who is righteous or good? No one.

God knows our hearts. His Word says that there is no one who is good. So if none of us is good, can we do good things to pay for our sin? No. Who is the ONLY good and perfect person who ever lived? Jesus.

There's nothing we can do that's good enough to pay for our sin or make up for it. Only Jesus can do that.

Slide #14

Let's add this to our Class Notes (PDF). Will someone read #4 for us? Assign a reader. No one. Have students complete #4.

Romans 3:23

Slide #15

Slide #16

Slide #17

Who has pictures 3, 4, and 5? Bring those up now. Have students attach the Lesson Illustrations 3, 4, and 5 to the board.

Your friend might say, "But I work hard at being good. I do all of my chores, and I say nice things most of the time. I even go to church every Sunday. That's got to be good enough to earn my way into heaven."

Slide #18

Is that true? Can we earn our way to heaven? Go to Romans 3:23 now. Someone read that. Assign a reader. What do we all fall short of? The glory of God.

Right. Anything we do will fall short of God's glory. Nothing we do on our own will ever be good enough to earn a place in heaven.

Slide #19

Even though these are good things to do, I'm going to cross them out because they won't help us get to heaven. Use a red marker or crayon to put an X through Lesson Illustrations 2–5 on the board. So why are none of these things going to work? How come we aren't good enough to earn our way into heaven? Look back at the first part of Romans 3:23. What did this verse say about all of us? We all have sinned.

Right! We are all sinners—and that's not good news. But it's all true. This is very bad news when you think about what sin is and what God thinks of it.

So if your friend asks you what sin is, what would you say? Someone tell us what sin is. Disobeying God.

Yes. Anything we do that goes against God's commands is sin.

What does God think of sin? He hates it.

Refer to the Attributes of God poster. Why does God hate sin? Look at our Attributes of God poster and tell me what it is about God that makes him hate sin. He is holy.

And, not only is he holy, but he is also just. What must God do to sin because he is holy and just? Punish sin.

Right. The punishment for sin is death. And that doesn't just mean that we will die one day—although that is part of it. But it means that because of sin, we cannot get to God. Sin separates us from God. And because of sin, we should be punished and separated from God's goodness, mercy, and grace—in hell forever!

That is really BAD news!

#### Slide #20

Now will someone read #5 for us on the Class Notes (PDF)? What does the Bible tell us? Assign a reader. Sinned. Have students complete #5.

### **The Good News**

It seems like things just keep getting worse, doesn't it? Sin entered the world at the very beginning—and after 6,000 years have gone by, we are still sinners! We are all born with a sin nature. We want what we want, when we want it! And that's not a good thing.

Sin leads to disobedience and trouble. We know that God must punish every sin we commit. He hates our sin.

So, maybe your friend starts to think about his sin and asks, "Where does that leave me? It sounds like there's no hope!" Then you can tell your friend that God is merciful!

Let's read the definition of "merciful" from the Attributes of God poster. Kind to those in misery, distress, or suffering; withholds deserved punishment.

We can be glad that God is merciful. He does not always punish us for our sin the way we deserve. And it's all because of Jesus.

John 3:16

#### Slide #21

Turn to John 3:16. Will someone read that? Assign a reader.

Hey! This is good news! Look in the verse again. Who does God love? The world.

What did God do because he loved the world? Who did God send to earth? Jesus.

That's right. God sent his Son, Jesus.

What did God want Jesus to do while he was on earth? Allow discussion.

#### Slide #22

Who has the last picture? Will you put that up on the board now? Have student attach Lesson Illustration 6 to the board.

You can tell your friend the good news that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for sinners like us and that we must believe in Jesus.  
What will sinners who believe in Jesus have? Eternal life.

Yes! Every sinner who truly believes in Jesus and what the Bible says about him will have eternal life. That means life with God—forever. God’s Word says they will NOT perish.

But that means everyone who does not believe in Jesus WILL perish.

#### Slide #23

So what do you think the word “perish” means? Allow discussion.

Perish: to come to destruction; be lost

In this verse, “perish” means that sinners will be destroyed and lost forever! “Perish” means they will be forever without the perfect goodness, love, and mercy of God.

That sounds terrible! But this verse has wonderful news! We don’t have to perish. God sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross and take the punishment for sinners. And all who believe in him—including your friend—will not have to suffer punishment because of their sin. They will be with God forever in heaven!

#### Slide #24

This is the good news! And now we can go to the “Good News” side of our Class Notes (PDF). Think about what this verse says. How will you answer #6? Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader. Life. Have students complete #6.

#### Slide #25

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. God has shown us his great mercy and love. He made a way for sinners to get to heaven, to be forgiven, and to have eternal life through Jesus—the one who saves us from the punishment of sin.

2 Corinthians 5:17

#### Slide #26

Many people feel bad for their sin and try to change on their own, but it doesn’t work. What if your friend wants to trust Jesus, but he’s afraid he might go back to sinning all the time? He asks you how he can stop sinning. What could you say?

This next verse tells us something else about a sinner who believes in Jesus. Will someone read 2 Corinthians 5:17? Assign a reader.  
What will happen to someone who is “in Christ”—someone who has turned away from his sins and turned to Jesus for forgiveness? What does he become? A new creation.

Yes! A person who believes in Jesus becomes a new creation. As new creations, we will change. We will have new hearts—ones that love God

and want to obey him. We will still be tempted to sin, but God will help us obey him.

Sinners who trust in Jesus become new creations! But it only happens because of Jesus. Jesus is the only person who ever lived a righteous life. Righteous means that he never sinned—not even once! He was perfect! He never did anything to deserve punishment. But when he died on the cross, he took the punishment for sinners, and his righteousness and goodness come to all who believe in him.

This is the good news of the gospel! God loved the world and gave his Son so whoever believes in him could have eternal life. And everyone who believes in Jesus becomes a new creation!

#### Slide #27

Will someone read #7 on the Class Notes (PDF) for us? What do sinners become when they trust in Jesus? Assign a reader. New. Have students complete #7.

And #8. Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader. Sinners. Have students complete #8.

The bad news is that we are all sinners, and we all need God's mercy! Our sin keeps us away from God. And our sin will finally lead to God's punishment . . . unless we believe and trust in Jesus.

And that is the good news! Our wicked and sinful hearts can be made new. How? Look at #9 on the Class Notes (PDF). What is the answer to that? Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #9.

And what about #10? Someone read that for us. What attribute has God shown by sending Jesus to take the punishment for sinners? Assign a reader. Mercy. Have students complete #10.

## **Application**

### Slide #28

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. Well, we started off with some pretty bad news today, didn't we? Sin entered the world at the very beginning—in the garden of Eden through Adam and Eve. Since Adam and Eve were the very first people, this sin nature was passed on to everyone. All people sin and disobey God. This is just the way our hearts naturally are—deceitful and sick. This is what the Bible tells us, and we know it to be true in our own hearts. The bad news is that sin separates us from God.

But there is really good news, too! God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die, so that whoever believes in him will become a new creation and have eternal life with God. When Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment for sinners, and all who turn away from their sins and believe in Jesus will have eternal life!

Why not take your Class Notes (PDF) home and share this bad news and good news with your family and your friends? Our sin is bad news . . . but God's love and mercy in Jesus Christ is great news!



All people are sinners. Our hearts are wicked! Most people don't want to hear that about themselves, do they? We all like to think that we're really pretty good, right? And the world teaches us to follow our hearts wherever they lead. We are told that we can do anything our hearts desire. And that is the only way we can be truly happy. But what does the Bible say?

Pass out the [Student Take Home Sheets \(PDF\)](#) and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Remember, if we follow our hearts wherever we want to go, without looking to God's Word for help, it will always lead to trouble. The Bible teaches that if we do whatever we really want to do, we will sin against God. We should not let our hearts lead us, but we should let God's Word and his wisdom lead us. We know that only Jesus can make our hearts right. Jesus is the only one who can make us into new creations!

## **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## **Board Game**

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

### **Materials**

Review Questions  
Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)  
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner  
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

## **Box Toss**

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

## Materials

Review Questions  
Medium-sized cardboard box  
Scissors or knife  
Four beanbags  
Masking tape

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

## Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

## Materials

Review Questions  
One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)  
Pencils or white board markers  
One die

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can

continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

## Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

### Materials

Review Questions

Masking tape

Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and

eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

## Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Oh No

Not every roll of the dice will be good for the team. Answer the question, roll the dice, and be prepared to say, “Oh no!”

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Two dice

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns answering review questions. When a team answers correctly, have them roll the dice to determine their points. If a team does not answer correctly, give the answer and repeat the question later. Keep track of team scores.

Numbers aren't always a winner! If students roll:

- 2 or 3 that team gives 5 points away to the other team
- 4 or 5 that team takes 5 points from the other team
- 6–10 face value
- 11 subtract 10 points from the team score
- 12 double the team score

(Note: no team can have less than 0 points.)

## Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Small paper strips
- Cup or basket

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

## Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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