

Lesson 23

The Hearts of Man

Our hearts are wicked, but Jesus can help.



K-1st Lesson

Introduction

- ? Refer to Lesson 22 Flip Chart. We talked about two brothers who were sons of Adam and Eve. Do you remember their names? *Cain and Abel.*
- ? Right. What did they do for a living? What was Cain's job? *He was a farmer.*
- ? And what did Abel do? *He was a shepherd.*
- ? They both brought offerings to God, but God did not like Cain's offering. Do you remember why? *He did not love God.*
- ? How did God know that Cain did not love him? *God could see his heart.*

On the outside, Cain was doing a good thing. He brought a nice gift to offer to God. But God could see what was in Cain's heart, and his heart was evil.

That's pretty amazing that God can know what's in our hearts. God is omniscient—that means he knows everything. We can't hide anything from God.

What Is in Our Hearts?

So what about our hearts? Many people think we are all good deep down on the inside. But what does God see when he looks into someone's heart? We're going to think about that question today and find out what the Bible has to say about it.

Romans 3:23

- ? Who has the Bible? Bring that up now, please. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

Let's start with a verse from the New Testament, Romans 3:23. *Read the verse.*

- ? Who sins against God? What did this verse say? Was it just Adam and Eve? *No, we all sin.*

That's right. Adam and Eve were the very first people, and they sinned. And since then, ALL people sin. We are all born with sinful hearts.

Jeremiah 17:9

Listen to this verse from Jeremiah, in the Old Testament, and tell me what it says about our hearts. *Read Jeremiah 17:9.*

- ? What did this verse tell us? Our hearts are deceitful and what? *Sick.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This is bad news, isn't it? God's Word is all true, right? So what we read in here is true. This verse tells us that our hearts are dishonest and sick. We don't want to obey God—and that means everyone, including you and me. If we have the choice, we would rather do what WE want to do. We don't want to do what we know is right. Like Romans 3:23 says, we are all sinners.

- ? But how does God feel about sin? *Allow discussion.*

God doesn't like sin at all, does he? God is holy! That means he hates all sin and must punish sin!

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Look at our Flip Chart. Why is there a serpent here in this picture? What does that remind us of? *Sin, serpent in the garden.*

Right. It reminds us of sin and how we are all sinners because our hearts are sick with sin.

- ? Why are these children so sad? *Allow discussion.*

They are sad because they know their hearts are sinful, and they know that GOD knows their hearts are this way. This is really bad news because God must punish sin. With sin in our hearts we can never go to heaven!

So how do we get rid of sin so we can go to heaven someday? I have some pictures here that might help us figure this out. *Pass out the Lesson Illustrations. Just hold on to these, and we'll put them on the board in just a minute.*

- ? We know that the Bible says we all have sin in our hearts. Who has picture #1, with the heart on it? Bring that up and put it on the board. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #1 and attach it to the board with tape or poster putty.*

- ? So how do we get rid of that sin in our hearts? Hmm. I know . . . what if we did 10 good things every day? Who has picture #2 with the 10 on it? Put that up here on the board. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #2 and attach it to the board.*

- ? Do you think that would get rid of sin? Can we earn our way to heaven if we do enough good things? *No.*

Use a red crayon or marker to put an X across the illustration. No, that won't work. That's not what the Bible tells us.

- ? Well, what if we worked really hard to help with chores at home? Who has picture #3 with the boy sweeping the floor? Bring that one up. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #3 and attach it to the board.*

- ? Would that get rid of sin if we worked really hard? *No.*

Put an X across the illustration. No. The Bible says that won't do it either.

- ? What if we were very careful to always say nice things to others and look happy all the time? Who has that picture, #4? Let's put that one up. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #4 and attach it to the board.*

- ? How many of you think that would get rid of our sin? *Show of hands.*

Put an X across the illustration. No! That won't do it.

- ? Who has picture #5? Show us that one. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #5 and attach it to the board.*

- ? What if we went to church every Sunday—even when we didn't feel like it? Do you think that would get rid of sin in our hearts? *Allow discussion.*

Put an X across the illustration. No! That would NOT clean our hearts either.

Only Jesus Can Clean Our Hearts

Refer to Lesson Illustrations on the board. All of these things are good things that we should do. But none of these things will clean our hearts and get rid of sin. Even if we do all of these things, it still won't take away the punishment for our sins.

- ? Someone must have the answer. Isn't there a picture that can help us figure this out? What's on the last picture—#6? Who has that one? Bring that up, please. *Have the student bring up Lesson Illustration #6 and attach it to the board.*

- ? Refer to Lesson Illustration #6. Oh! Who is on this picture? *Jesus.*

- ? What does this picture show? *Jesus on the cross.*

John 3:16

That's it! I think we found our answer! Listen to this verse. *Read John 3:16.*

- ? How did God feel about the world? *God loved the world.*
- ? Who did God give to the world? *His Son.*
- ? Who is God's Son? *Jesus!*

- ? Refer to Lesson Illustration #6 on the board. What did Jesus do? *Jesus died on the cross.*

That's right. God loved the world so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus took the punishment for our sin so that all who believe in him will have their hearts cleaned from sin and become children of God. Jesus will save them from the punishment of sin and give them eternal life with him!

- ? What does the Bible mean by eternal life with Jesus? *It means living in heaven forever with him.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. That's right. The bad news is that we are ALL sinners. We are all born with sinful hearts. God hates sin and has to punish it. But God made a way so that we could be forgiven of our sins. And that way is through Jesus.

Refer to the Lesson Illustrations. And do you know what? That's really good news! Jesus is the answer. Only he can make our hearts clean from sin.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Bad News



We all sin.

Good News



Only Jesus can clean our hearts.