

## Lesson 23

# **The Hearts of Man**

Our hearts are wicked, but Jesus can help.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Prayer Page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and tell God thank you for something.

I'll start. Dear God, I want to thank you for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Where do you learn how to love and obey God? In the Bible.  
Where is God? God is everywhere.  
Can you see God? No. I cannot see God, but he always sees me.  
Does God know all things? Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

## Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number choose a number. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word), you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. Begin the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

K-1st Lesson continues next.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

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### **Review**

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

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart to keep the children engaged.

Refer to Lesson 22 Flip Chart. We talked about Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve's sons. Cain was a farmer, and Abel 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? What could God see? 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? Was it just Adam and Eve? What did the verse say? 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 and tell me what it says about our hearts. Read Jeremiah 17:9.

What did this say? Our hearts are deceitful and what? Sick.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This is bad news, isn't it? This verse tells us the truth that our hearts are dishonest and sick. Like Romans 3:23 says, we are all sinners, so we don't want to obey God. 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.

Pass out the Lesson Illustrations. Students will put them on the board as you continue.

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 the next picture 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 make our hearts clean 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 will 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.

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.

Yes! We found the answer!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The bad news is that we are all born with sinful hearts. But the Bible says that God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sin. Now 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 they will live with him forever in heaven. And that's really good news! Jesus is the answer. Only he can make our hearts clean from sin.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

### **Review**

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

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.

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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.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart to keep the children engaged.

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.

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Pass out the Lesson Illustrations. Students will put them on the board as you continue.

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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.

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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.

## **Lesson Review**

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

## **Basket Toss**

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

## **Materials**

Review Questions  
Two beanbags  
Three laundry baskets or boxes  
Masking tape

## **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

## **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.

## Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

## Materials

Review Questions  
Three chairs set out for bases  
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

## Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

## Materials

Review Questions  
Six to ten empty water bottles  
Softball or other small playground ball  
Masking tape  
Optional: dried corn or beans

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

## 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.

## **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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