



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 25 • Session 3

JESUS WARNED ABOUT NOT LOVING

Matthew 23

HOW IS JESUS THE PERFECT PROPHET? JESUS PERFECTLY REVEALS GOD THE FATHER AND FULFILLS WHAT THE PROPHETS SPOKE.

One day, Jesus spoke to the crowds of people and to His followers. He said, "The religious leaders tell you about God's law that came through Moses. You should obey this law." Then He told them, "But do not be like the religious leaders because they tell you to do one thing, but they don't do it themselves. They make up hard rules for you to follow, but they do not follow their own rules."

Jesus said that the religious leaders did everything so that other people would think they were great.

"You have one Teacher," Jesus reminded them, "and you are all brothers and sisters. You have one Father—God—who is in heaven. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus warned the religious leaders, "You convince people to follow you, but you lead them away from God. You care more about following rules than showing justice, mercy, and faithfulness."

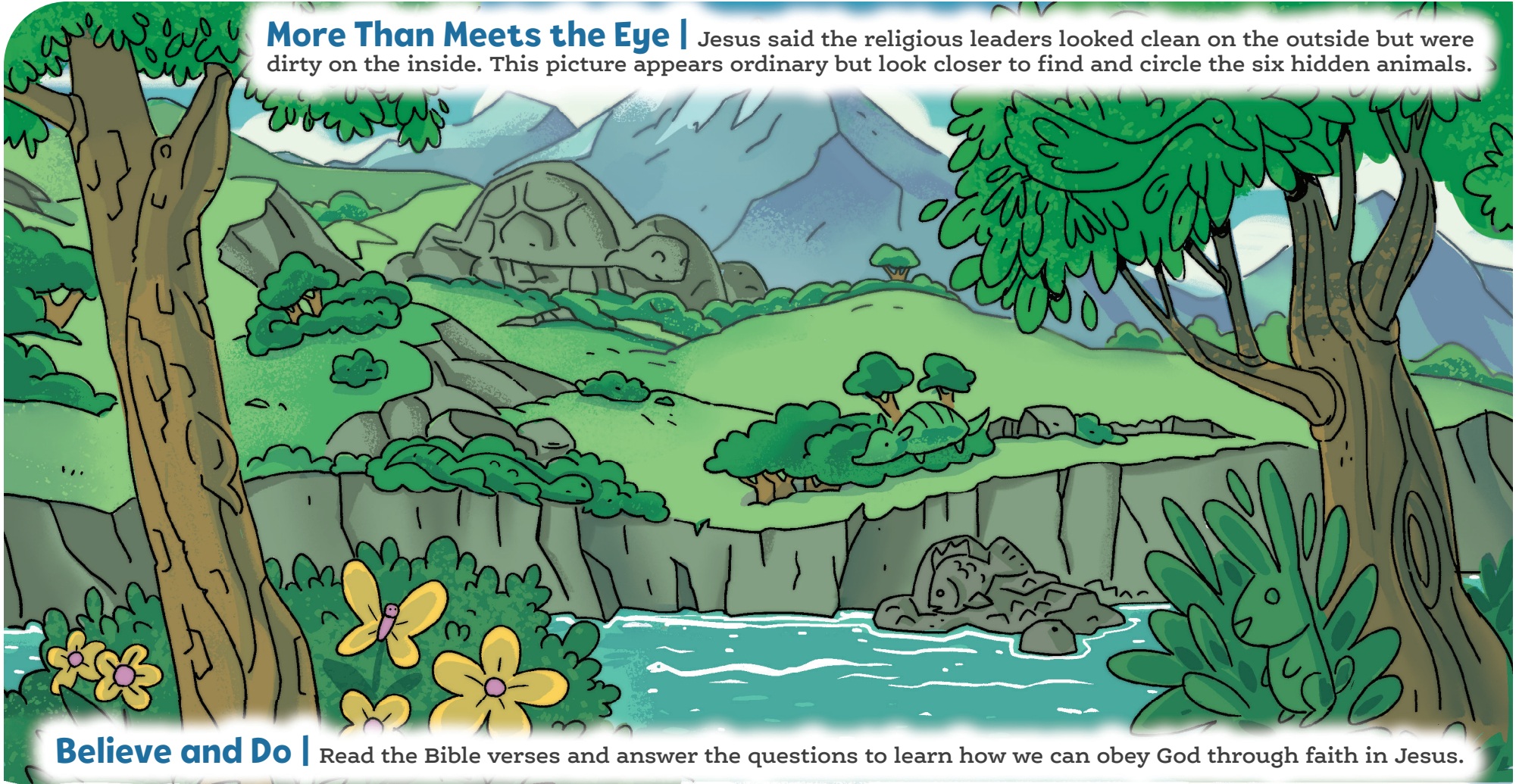
Jesus said the religious leaders looked clean on the outside but were dirty on the inside: "You wash the outside of the cup and dish, but you are greedy and selfish."

Finally, Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, "Do you think you will escape God's judgment? No! You will be punished."

Christ Connection: Jesus said that the greatest commandments are to love God and love others. (Matt. 22:37-39) The religious leaders loved themselves most of all. When we trust in Jesus, He makes us right with God and changes our hearts so we can love and obey Him.

FOLD

More Than Meets the Eye | Jesus said the religious leaders looked clean on the outside but were dirty on the inside. This picture appears ordinary but look closer to find and circle the six hidden animals.



Believe and Do | Read the Bible verses and answer the questions to learn how we can obey God through faith in Jesus.

1. Who gives people a new heart? (Ezekiel 11:19-20)
2. How can we receive a new heart? (John 7:37-38)
3. What does our new heart desire to do? (Matthew 22:37-39)
4. Why do we do good works? (Matthew 5:16)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.