



12

The Hearts of Man

Key Themes

- God judges sin.
- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

Key Passages

- Genesis 6:5; Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:16

Lesson Focus

- Our hearts are wicked because of sin. Jesus can help.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color a heart with dark colors and save it for Activity 2.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear the bad news that we are all sinners. But they will hear the good news that God made a way through Jesus to be forgiven and get to heaven.

Song—Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the songs “Sin Entered In” and “Clean My Heart.”



Activity 1: Clean Heart—Part One

Students will take turns marking the poster heart you have prepared to symbolize sin, and then discover that only Jesus can make the heart clean.



Activity 2: Clean Heart—Part Two

Students will finish the heart project they started in the Come On In activity by putting the clean heart over the heart they colored with dark crayons earlier.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets to pass out at the end of class



COME ON IN

- Print one set of Clean Heart sheets from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Cut out one blank heart for each student for the Come On In activity.
- (Students will color the blank heart during the Come On In activity. The heart with the statement about Jesus on it will be used during Activity 2.)

- Blank hearts for each student
- Black, brown, dark colored markers or crayons



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal
- Bible



CLEAN HEART—PART ONE

- Use a black marker to draw a large heart on a white poster board.
- Draw a heart on a sheet of red cellophane that will cover the heart on the poster. (If cellophane is not available, use another poster board.)
- Tape the red cellophane to the poster board so you can flip it down to cover the heart later.
- Print and cut out one set of Sin Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM to be read during the activity.
- Experiment with the yellow, orange and pink markers or highlighters to make sure their markings are not visible when covered with the red cellophane.

- Large, white poster board
- Black marker
- Yellow, orange, and pink markers or highlighters
- Stiff, red cellophane available at craft stores or florist shops (enough to cover poster board) or use another white poster board
- Tape
- Pencil eraser
- One set of Sin Cards
- Box or container for the Sin Cards



CLEAN HEART—PART TWO

- Use the hearts the children colored during the Come On In activity.

- Dark-colored hearts from the Come On In activity
- Hearts with the statement about Jesus on them from the Resource DVD-ROM (see the Come On In activity above)



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart and mind for this week's lesson, read Genesis 4:16–26; Jeremiah 17:7–10; Psalm 51:1–6; John 3:16–21.

We saw the effects of sin begin to ravage the world and its culture in the children of Adam and Eve. The first murder occurred when Cain killed his brother Abel out of greed, jealousy, selfishness, and hatred. The Bible tells us that evil company corrupts good habits (1 Corinthians 15:33), and it appears Cain was quick to influence those around him with the evil in his heart.

The Bible tells us of Lamech—the fifth generation from Cain. His heart was corrupted and we know that he took two wives (Genesis 4:19) in rebellion to God's ordinance of marriage (Genesis 2:24). We read how he speaks with seeming pride of another murder—this one he committed (Genesis 4:23). As the moral fiber decayed from generation to generation we can only imagine what the Lord saw as He looked upon the earth. For He was grieved in His heart that He had made people and knew that He must destroy them (Genesis 6:5–7).

And what does the Lord see today? More sin, evil, and corruption. Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were sent from the garden, their sin nature has been passed on to all humans. The Bible states that death spread to all men through the sin of Adam (Romans 5:12). In Adam all die—because of sin. But in Christ all shall be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22).

As descendants of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited a sin nature. David knew that he was conceived in sin—an inheritance from Adam (Psalm 51:5). And Jeremiah reminds us that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Our sin demands judgment by a holy God. Jesus tells us that judgment is coming. Speaking of the final judgment, He warns that just like it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man (Luke 17:26). He is coming to judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with His truth (Psalm 96:13).

So what are we to do? We know that our God—our holy, jealous God—is a consuming fire who will not tolerate our loyalty, love, honor, and respect being placed anywhere else (Deuteronomy 4:23–24). He is intolerant of sin, and we are all sinners (Romans 3:23).

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). For God had always known that He would send “His

only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Through Him alone are we brought from darkness into light and from the power of Satan to God. Through Jesus our Savior we receive forgiveness of our sins and the inheritance of eternity with Him (Acts 26:18).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Man has always suffered from a self-centered arrogance that bristles at the very thought of being sinful at heart. Many truly believe that humans are inherently good and that it is unthinkable that we are born into sin. Couple this thinking with the self-esteem rhetoric that maintains we are great—we better know it, believe it, and be very impressed by it. We can see that we are raising a generation that can't fathom they are deceitful and wicked—that their hearts desire only to rebel against God (Jeremiah 17:9).

We tell our children to follow their hearts. Whatever they imagine they can do, they can. Their dreams are theirs if they only wish for them. Whatever they feel in their heart is OK, and they must pursue their heart's desire. However, this is not what God's Word tells us. We are leading our children astray with this type of teaching. Our feelings cannot lead our decisions. Our hearts are fickle and wicked. Our lives should be directed by Scripture alone. The Word of God will direct us in all righteousness. The righteousness of His testimonies is everlasting—with understanding in these, we shall live (Psalm 119:144).

Without a proper understanding of the depth of the sin in our hearts, how can we properly rejoice at the forgiveness that is ours through Christ? If our sin is minor or inconsequential in our eyes, what would make us turn from it and accept the free gift of forgiveness and salvation from God? If we long for the pleasures of our heart and pursue those desires without considering God's Word, how would we make Him the Lord and King of our lives? With our own needs and comforts so much in view, how would we ever be able to properly humble ourselves before God to plead His mercy and forgiveness? Do you see? The very gospel is at stake when we consider the self-esteem-building philosophy so many are buying into.

The Apostle Paul sums it up well this way: “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells” (Romans 7:18). We are sinners. Our righteousness is like filthy rags before the Lord (Isaiah 64:6). And it is only through humble repentance and belief in the

gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15) that we will escape the judgment and condemnation for our sins.

But the good news is that God promises a new heart for those who trust in Christ and thereby become partakers of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:33–34; Hebrews 8:6–12). We become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), and can walk in newness of life, no longer living as slaves to sin (Romans 6:1–7).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It wasn't long after creation that sin entered the world. Adam and Eve coveted what they could not have and in direct disobedience to God went after it. God's judgment came upon them in the form of a curse, and they were expelled from the garden (Genesis 3:24). Their fellowship with God was broken. Now sin would be a part of the human race.

We know that "those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:8) and that in our sin we are lawless, insubordinate, ungodly, unholy, profane, murderers, manslayers, fornicators, sodomites, kidnappers, liars, and perjurers (1 Timothy 1:9–10). With this in mind, it is not surprising that, just 1,600 years after Adam and Eve were sent from the presence of God, He once again had to judge the sin of the world. This time it was a worldwide Flood that would destroy all but Noah and his family (Genesis 6:13, 6:18). Sin continued to pervade the lives of the people.

It was just more than 100 years after God destroyed the world that His judgment fell at Babel. The people were disobedient to God's direct commands and desired to build themselves a city and a tower to the

heavens. They longed to make a great name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). These plans angered the holy God and He judged them by confusing their language and scattering the people across the face of all the earth (Genesis 11:7–8).

And man continues to sin. God is now withholding His full judgment on the unjust—but it will come (2 Peter 2:9–11). He is coming to judge the earth in righteousness (Psalm 98:9). His judgment is real and eternal, and will come by fire. "But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7). But thanks be to God that we can escape God's wrath and judgment through faith in Christ (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

My Redeemer and Savior, I give you praise today as I remember how you have washed my wicked and deceitful heart clean and made me a new creation. You alone are worthy of praise. May you be glorified as I teach this concept to my class this week. Please help these students realize the truth that they are sinners and wicked by nature but you are gracious and merciful and have provided a way of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the blank Clean Heart sheet (the heart without the statement about Jesus on it). They will use dark-colored markers and crayons. Tell children that these dark colors remind us that our hearts are dark and sinful. They will finish the project at the end of class by attaching a white heart over the top that says, "Only Jesus can make my heart clean."

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children 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 other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

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

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of supplication. That is when we ask God for something—we call them please prayers.

- Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.
- Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you know what I need better than I do. But you still want me to ask. So God, today I ask that you would please . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer asking God for something they want or need.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? **What is in this Bible?** *God's holy Word!*
- ? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*
- ? **And all God's Words in this Bible are what?** *True!*
- ? **We are going to talk about something today. I wonder if you can guess what it is. You were coloring something when you came in. What was it you were coloring?** *A heart!*
- ? **That's right. You colored a heart. What color did you color your heart?** *You should have only had black, brown, dark green, purple, dark colors available to color the heart. Allow the children to answer what color they colored their hearts.*

Genesis 6:5

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

You colored your hearts dark. I'm not really sure I like to think about a dark heart. A dark heart seems bad doesn't it? I would rather think about a light, white, happy heart. But, the Bible says something about man's heart. **Listen to this very carefully.** Read Genesis 6:5 from your Bible emphasizing "every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

- ? **What did the Bible say about man's heart?** *It is evil.*

That's right. This passage said that man is wicked and that the thoughts of man are not right. We just don't want to obey God. And when we disobey God we are sinning. That's not good! Our hearts are wicked because of sin!

Let me read something else the Bible says. Tell me what this is saying about all of us! Read Romans 3:23 from your Bible emphasizing "ALL have sinned."

- ? **Who sins against God? Did you hear it?** *We all sin.*

This isn't looking very good. Our hearts are wicked because of sin. That's what the Bible says. And we ALL sin. Let me read one more verse to you. Turn to Jeremiah 17:9 in your Bible. Read to the children.

Romans 3:23

Jeremiah 17:9

God's Word is all true, right? So what we read in here is true, right? This is not very good news, is it? This verse is saying that our hearts are mean. Our hearts are wicked because of sin! We want to sin. We don't want to obey God. And that means YOU don't want to obey God. And it means I don't want to obey God either. How should that make us feel? *Refer to the Lesson 12 Flip Chart—the sad faces.*

When I look at all of you, it's hard for me to believe that! I love you so much. You are all so cute and special to me. But you see, what God is saying is that if we had the choice, we would rather do what we want to do. We don't want to do what we know is right.

? Well, how does God feel about sin? *Allow for answers.*

I'll tell you. God doesn't like sin at all! He hates it. God is holy! That means He hates all sin and will not stand for sin. He must punish sin! These children here are sad and they should be. *Refer to the children on the Flip Chart.* They know their hearts are wicked and what is more, they know that GOD knows their hearts are wicked. This is really bad news because God must punish sin. With sin in our hearts we can NEVER get to heaven!

? Do you think God leaves it like this? God did something for us. He did something for sinners. Something wonderful. Something that will help us to get to heaven. Can you tell me what that is? *Allow for answers. Jesus came.*

Let me read another verse to you. Tell me what it is God did. Tell me who God sent. Listen carefully! *Read John 3:16 from your Bible.*

John 3:16

? What did God think of the world? *Reread the verse if necessary. God loved the world.*

? Who did God give to the world? *Reread the verse if necessary. His Son.*

? Who is God's Son? *Jesus!*

? What did Jesus do? *Reread the verse again. Came to earth.*

? What else did Jesus do? This cross might help you to remember. *Refer to the cross on the Flip Chart. Jesus died on the Cross.*

That's right. God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to die on the Cross so that whoever believes in Jesus would have eternal life!

? What does the Bible mean by eternal life with Jesus? *It means heaven!*

That's right. Jesus never sinned. We are ALL sinners. God hates sin and has to punish it. But God made a way that we could be forgiven of our sins. And that is through Jesus. Jesus had to die on the Cross. And whoever believes in Him, like the Bible says, will go to heaven. And do you know what? That is GOOD NEWS! Jesus can make our hearts clean from sin. Jesus can fill our hearts with joy when we believe in Him and trust Him to forgive us! He is our wonderful Savior. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song page during this part of the lesson.

OK! Let's sing! Everybody up! Today we heard we are all sinners. That is bad news. We have a song about that called "Sin Entered In." This song tells us where sin came from, that God must punish our sin, and that He will forgive everyone who believes on Jesus! Let's sing that. *Sing "Sin Entered In" while clapping and marching in place.*

The Bible says our hearts are dark, wicked, and sinful. We don't want to obey God. But Jesus can help. Jesus died on the Cross to offer forgiveness to everyone who believes in Him like the Bible says. Let's sing a song about that! *Sing "Clean My Heart."*

Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

That was beautiful, well done! Go ahead and sit back down now. Take a look up here. *Point to poster board with heart.*



Clean Heart—Part One

MATERIALS

- Large, white poster board with heart outline on it
- Box with Sin Cards to read to the children
- Yellow, orange, and pink markers or highlighters (test the markers you intend to use to be sure the cellophane will cover the marks)
- Stiff, red cellophane available at craft stores or florist shops (enough to cover poster board) or another poster board
- Tape (to attach the cellophane to the poster board)
- Pencil eraser

INSTRUCTIONS

Do ahead: Using a black marker, draw a large heart to take up most of the space on the white poster board. Experiment with the yellow, orange, and pink markers to make sure their markings are not visible when covered with the cellophane. Tape the red cellophane to the top of the poster board so that it will easily cover the front. Lean it up against something. Pick up the bottom edge of the cellophane and gently fold the whole piece back over the top of the poster board so the cellophane is not visible. If cellophane is not available, use another piece of poster board to “cover” the sins at the appropriate time.

We’ve talked about how we all have sin in our hearts. Sometimes we do sinful things without even thinking about it! And oh, how that makes God unhappy! I am going to let you come up here and take a card out of this box. These cards list things that children do that are sins. I will read it to you. Once I read it, you can go to the heart and mark an X in the heart with one of these markers.

Call on students to come and draw a card from the box. Read the card. Ask if that sounds like something they may have done. Allow the children to discuss. Allow that child to make an X on the poster board heart, using one of the colored markers. Tell the children that the marks they make are symbols for sin. Allow all the children to mark an X inside the heart.

Look at all those awful sins in this heart! Remember, God can see all the sins in our hearts, too. Can we erase them? *Use pencil eraser to try and erase. No, I can’t erase it.*

? God must punish sin because He is holy. But how can we get rid of sin? *Allow for answers. Who is the only one that can clean our hearts? Jesus.*

That’s right. Jesus died on the Cross for us so we can have clean hearts. *Flip the cellophane over to the front of the poster board so all the sins are covered. Look, it covers all the sin and makes the whole heart clean! What does John 3:16 say? Reread the verse.*

Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life in heaven with Jesus and God! Jesus died so that we could be forgiven of our sins if we believe in Him.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Refer to the “covered” heart. There were a lot of sins in that heart. I couldn’t erase any of them either. But when I covered the sins with the red paper, it looked like the sins were all gone! Of course, that was just a way for us to understand how our sinful hearts can be cleaned.

Jesus, God’s one and only Son, is the only one who can clean us of our sins.

Now we are going to finish the heart coloring sheets we started earlier. I have another white heart to put over the heart you colored dark earlier. You can take these home and explain to your family how only Jesus can make our hearts clean.

So very quietly now, go back and find your seat at the table.



Clean Heart—Part Two

MATERIALS

- Dark-colored hearts that the children colored during the Come On In activity
- Clean Heart sheets with statement about Jesus on them
- Tape (to attach the Clean Heart sheet over the dark-colored heart)

INSTRUCTIONS

Give the children the hearts with the following statement on them: "Only Jesus can make our hearts clean!" Help the children to attach the "clean" heart over the "dark" (colored) heart so it can be flipped up and down. The heart should be taped along the top so it can be lifted and the heart below can be seen.

Just like our poster here, we are reminded that there is only one who can take away our sins and make our hearts clean. That is Jesus. This paper says that. "Only Jesus can make our hearts clean."

We want to sin. We want to disobey. This is not good and God must punish our sin. But for everyone who believes in Jesus, we can go to heaven to be with Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sins. So He can make our hearts clean!



Memory Verse/Snack

Genesis 2:16–17 Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The fact that we are all sinners seems like very bad news, doesn't it? Yet, there is really good news. God sent His only Son, Jesus, into the world, so

that whoever believes in Him can have a relationship with God. Jesus took the punishment we deserve when He died on the Cross. Whoever believes in Jesus will not receive God's punishment. And because of Jesus we can go to heaven if we believe in Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

? So if you believe that Jesus died for you and He cleans your heart, does that mean you can do whatever you want and it's ok? *No.*

No. If we truly love Jesus then He will clean our hearts and change our hearts. We should love Him and want to do what's right. We should want to please Him in all we do.

? Does that mean you will always do the right thing? *No.*

You will still choose to do sinful things even after Jesus cleans out your hearts. But then you need to ask Jesus to forgive you.

When you are truly sorry, it's like promising to turn away from that sin and not do it again. The wonderful thing about it is that Jesus will always be there to help you.

Now let's take some time to thank our God who cleans our hearts.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God that He shows us our sinfulness and need for Him.
- Thank God for giving Jesus to shed His blood for us so we can have clean hearts.
- Ask God to open the hearts of these children to the truth about Jesus.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

SIN ENTERED IN

(To the Tune of "This Old Man")

God created Adam and Eve.

(This old man, he played one.)

They walked with God in the Garden light.

(He played knick-knack on my thumb.)

He said, "Don't eat this fruit;

(With a knick-knack paddywhack.)

Don't take a single bite."

(Give a dog a bone.)

"Obey me," He said, "and do what's right."

(This old man came rolling home.)

The serpent came and told a lie,

"Taste this fruit; give it a try!"

So they ate the fruit and sin entered in.

We disobey God and we all sin.

God must punish our sin; it's true,

But He offers a plan for me and you!

He'll forgive the sins of everyone,

Who believes on Jesus, His own Son.

CLEAN MY HEART

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

In my heart, what does God see?

(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

Is He the One I want to please?

(For the Bible tells me so.)

Or does my heart need help, Oh Lord?

(Little ones to Him belong.)

Clean out the sin and make it yours!

(They are weak, but He is strong.)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Please, clean my heart today!

(The Bible tells me so.)