



WELCOME

@HOME: WEEK OF JAN 31

TEACHING EXPLANATION

Spend some time in your group talking through Pastor Dave's teaching. Check to see if there are any questions that stem from the teaching and talk through at least one thing that everyone in your group learned new from Pastor Dave's teaching.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."- Ezekiel 36:26 (CSB)

Using an object can help with verse memorization. Find a small ball in your @HOME space (if you don't have one, rolling up a few socks together could also work-just make sure they are clean socks!) Toss or roll a ball to one child and have them say the first word of the verse before tossing it to the next child. Continue until the entire verse is said. If the ball is dropped-restart the verse from the beginning. Time how long it takes to finish the verse and try to beat the previous time.

AT THE HEART OF SIN

VIDEO NOTES

The Sermon on the Mount was one continuous sermon. In breaking it up over several weeks it can be hard for the kids to remember how it all ties back together. This week we are going to be looking at getting to the heart of sin and how sin is not just how things appear on the outside of a person's life--it's looking at their heart! We've included several videos to help guide your time together as a group:

INTRO VIDEO:

Start with Ms. Keelea as she recaps last week for us and what's in-store for this week.

TEACHING:

Pastor Dave will bring us a short message around this week's sermon topic. Kids may also have either listened to Pastor Steve's sermon on Sunday morning or been to Sunday Kids and heard a mini-teaching on this as well! That's awesome! They all tie together! Follow this video with the Teaching Explanation section.

OLD TESTAMENT STORY:

Ms. Joyce takes us through a harder story way back in the early parts of Genesis this week with the story of Cain and Abel-but it will help further illustrate how God looks at the heart, not at outward appearances.

WORSHIP:

Feel free to use additional Woodlands Kids Worship Videos available on YouTube, but we recommend doing these three songs together for a time of worship with your group:

- Rise Up
- Sing Wherever I Go
- Build My Life

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD

This week we are continuing on our Joyful Journey by reading through all 4 Gospels before Easter. This week we are reading Mark 4-9. Take some time this week with the kids in your group to check in with how reading is going, questions they may have from the readings from last week, and get caught up on any chapters as a group.

ACTIVITY 1:

This week's first activity involves Tootsie Roll pops. You'll unwrap one sucker and hold it up. Ask the kids what this is and let them answer. When they say a lollipop you'll say "That's right-a Tootsie Roll Pop which means the outside is hard" (tap it on a hard surface to demonstrate) "but the inside is soft and chewy. There's only one problem with this--to get to the soft insides you have to remove this hard shell. This is kind of like our memory verse from this week-Ezekiel 36:26. Let's say it again together!"

After you've said the verse, talk about how God promises to give us a new heart--a soft heart because sometimes our hearts get hard. What makes our hearts hard? (Let the kids provide examples but here are additional answers: when people hurt our feelings or treat us badly that can harden our hearts towards them and towards others; when we step away from God, that can also make our hearts hard.) No matter how hard our hearts get, God can soften them. In fact, He promises He will! We're all going to enjoy a Tootsie Roll pop now and when you get to the soft part in the middle remember that the sometimes softening can take time but eventually it leads us to the good stuff and God has a special way of softening our heart!

Pray together that God would soften each of our hearts.

ACTIVITY 2:

For the younger children in your group we've provided a coloring page about Cain and Abel.

ACTIVITY 3:

Jesus tells us in Matthew chapter 5 that in order to address our sins we need to understand them and recognize them. We've provided 2 hearts on a single sheet of paper. For the first heart, ask kids in your group to write down a few of their sins. On the second heart, write the things they want God to give them in their new heart.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to lead your group in a discussion after you've watched all of the videos and completed a few of the activities.

- What kind of work did Cain and Abel do?
- What did Cain and Abel bring to offer to God?
- Why do you think God was pleased with Abel's offer and not Cain's?
- Did Cain understand what God was trying to tell him about his offer?
- What did Cain do next?
- When we talk about needing a new heart, what do you think that means? Do we get an actual new heart or does this mean something a little different?

PRAYER TIME

Going along with our Old Testament story, as well as the teaching from this week, we are going to be praying for our relationships with our siblings-our brothers and sisters. If you don't have brothers or sisters, pray for your relationship with parents, grandparents, or friends. Pray that God would give you a new heart when it comes to being angry or jealous with them.