

Clean Hearts Object Lesson

Materials

- Sin cards (following pages)
- Large white poster board
- Black marker
- Red cellophane to cover poster board (available at craft stores)
- Yellow, orange, and pink markers or highlighters (test to be sure they cannot be seen through the red cellophane)
- Tape
- Large pencil eraser

Instructions

Using a black marker, draw a large heart in the center of the white poster board, taking up most of the space. Tape the red cellophane to the top of the poster board so it will cover the heart. Gently fold the cellophane piece over the top of the poster board to the back so it is not visible.

Print and cut out the sin cards and place them in a container.

Call on students to come up and draw a card from the box. Read the card. Ask if that sounds like something they may have done. Allow discussion. Have the student make an X or a scribble on the poster board heart using one of the light-colored markers. Tell the students that the marks they make are symbols for sin. Allow every student to mark the heart as you go through all the cards (reuse cards if necessary).

Continue with the following discussion:

Suggested Discussion

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

That's right. Jesus died on the cross for sinners so sins could be forgiven, and we can have clean hearts. Flip the cellophane over the front of the poster board so all the sins are covered.

Hey! The heart looks clean now, doesn't it?

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!

This reminds us that we all have sinful hearts, and we can't get rid of that sin on our own. There's no way we can erase our sins. Only Jesus, God's Son, can clean the sins from each of our hearts when we turn to him and trust in him to save us from our sin.

Call people names and hurt their feelings.

Take toys from someone who is playing with them.

Get out of your chair when you are supposed to be sitting.

Don't obey your mom and dad right away.

Lie; say things that aren't true.

Aren't thankful.

Don't share your toys.

Get angry when you don't get your way.

Bother other people in church.

Are unkind to others.

Take things without permission.

Grumble and complain about things.