

Sins Washed Away

Objective: To give students a visual reminder about redemption.

Gather Materials

- Large mixing bowl
- Water to fill bowl
- Blue Dawn dish soap (yes, it has to be this brand to work correctly)
- Plastic spoon
- Can of ground black pepper

Before class, fill the bowl with the water, and place in the center of where the group will be holding the discussion (a circle works best for this activity). Take the spoon, and coat it in the dish soap. Make sure it is coated completely.



Read Scripture

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Hebrews 2:18 - For because He himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Group Work/Discussion

After reading the scripture, ask the students the following questions to encourage discussion about salvation:

- What does salvation mean to you?
- If you mess up and sin, do you lose your salvation? (explain to the students why this isn't the case and point them to Romans 3:23)
- What exactly did Jesus sacrifice so we could be saved?
- How can you talk about salvation with others? What would you say?

Activity

Talk to the students about why we feel so guilty when we sin and how it is normal for people to sometimes question their salvation. You may want to share a personal story here of a time you doubted your salvation.

Place the bowl of water in the center of the group. Tell the students that the water is clear and true, much like how a new Christian feels right after he accepts Christ.

Sprinkle a little pepper from the can into the water, and tell the students that the pepper represents sin, and sin makes what is true and clear dirty and murky looking. Have the students take turns coming up and sprinkling a

bit of pepper on the water. At the end of this, the entire top of the water should have pepper flakes covering nearly every inch. If this is not the case, add some more, and name some other sins as you do so.

Hold up the spoon and explain that it represents redemption. The spoon represents when we ask for forgiveness from our sins. Slowly, so the students will pay attention to what you are doing, lower the spoon toward the water. As you do so, remind the students that the pepper represents our sin and the spoon is forgiveness. The moment before the spoon hits the water, say, "This is what happens to our sins when we are forgiven." Finally, insert the spoon into the center of the bowl of water. The pepper flakes will zoom out to the edges of the bowl and away from the spoon and the water will be clear and clean once again.

Lesson Points

- Everyone sins
- Forgiveness through redemption
- Accepting Jesus and admitting our sins washes away our sins

Close the lesson by reminding them that no matter what someone has done, he can be forgiven with a truly repentant heart. Once he is forgiven it is washed away and made new like the water in the bowl. End in prayer.