

Family Devotional

From May 22, 2016

Create: Before you start, gather your supplies: 1 hanger, 1 paper heart (approximately 6 inches), 6 pieces of yarn or string (approximately 12 inches long each), 2 plastic or paper cups, several small objects that will fit in your cups (beans, Legos, beads etc.), hole punch and tape.

- Punch 3 holes in each cup, equally spaced around the rim of the cup.
- Write GOOD on one cup and BAD on the other cup.
- Now attach 1 piece of string to each hole and tie all 3 strings from one cup together at the top
- Attach your cups to the hanger by either slipping the knotted yarn on to the strap hooks of the hanger or using tape to secure the strings on either end of the hanger.
- Tape your heart to the hanger.
- Hang your scale from a doorknob or hook so it is ready to weigh.



Take turns naming “good” deeds and “bad” deeds: place one of your small objects in the corresponding cup and see which side is heavier.

Now let’s read a story about a guy who was “good at being good!”

Read “A New Way to See” from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* page 334 or Acts 8:1-3 & 9: 1-22

Reflect: Like Saul, we often look at our relationship with God like this scale: if we are good then He likes us, but if we’re bad He is mad at us. However, the Good News is that is not the way God works! Read Luke 5:31-32 to find out who Jesus came to help.

This verse tells us that Jesus came not for the “good” people, but for everyone! Jesus came to open the door so we could all be God’s friend. When we give our hearts to Jesus it’s like he grabs the scale by with both hands making it balance no matter what good or bad things we have done in the past. *Demonstrate this by holding the hanger where you connected the strings.* Our actions do not determine our relationship with God. That is decided by who holds our heart.

This Good News is not just true for us, but every person in the world. Who did God use to explain this to Paul?

What was Ananias’ response when God told him to go help Paul? How would you respond if Jesus asked you to go tell someone that had been mean to you that God loves them?

What was the result of his obedience?

Just like God had a special job for Ananias and Paul, he has a special job for you! The good things we do are not so we can work our way to God, but obedience comes from thankfulness for the love we have received.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on Ephesians 2:8-10 this week.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ideas: Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you saving us by your great love and mercy. Help us remember your love for us is not dependent on our actions but who holds our heart. Help us share this Good News with others! Amen!"