

# Clean or Unclean?

## Theme

Our relationship to God is a matter of the heart.

## Object

Antibacterial wipes, Hand sanitizer

## Scripture

Mark 7:15

- People today are very concerned about having clean hands. Many people carry packages of wipes (show wipes) or hand sanitizer (show hand sanitizer). Keeping your hands clean is good, right? (Invite kids to quickly clean their hands using one of the products.)

The Bible tells about some Pharisees who came to Jesus. They liked to be bossy about the rules. "We've noticed that some of your disciples are eating without washing their hands," they told Jesus. "Why don't they follow our tradition of washing their hands before they eat?"

"You bunch of phonies!" Jesus responded. "Isaiah must have been talking about you when he said, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.' "

Then Jesus called the people to gather around. "All of you listen. It's not what goes into your body that makes you unclean, it is the bad words that come out of your mouth. Out of your hearts come evil thoughts, greed, cheating, and envy. This is what makes you unclean."

The Pharisees were more worried about having clean hands than they were about having a clean heart. Are we any different? We work hard to keep our hands clean, but do we guard our hearts against evil thoughts? What kinds of books do we read? What kinds of TV shows and movies do we watch? What kind of language comes out of our mouth?

Clean hands or a clean heart, which is more important?

God, forgive us for our unclean thoughts. Create in us clean hearts to honor You. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Interactive Group Activities

by Carol Williams

**Sermon Title:** "Clean or Unclean?"

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 7:1-7; 14-15; 21-23

**GLOVE RELAY:** Divide the children into 2 teams and let the children run to a box of disposable gloves, put a glove on and run back and tag the next person on the team. The first team to have every team member with a disposable glove on is the winner.

**"HAND IN HEART" HANGING:** Provide the children with supplies to cut out a big construction paper HEART. Have the children write, "CLEAN HANDS OR A CLEAN HEART?" around the edge of the heart. Next, have the children trace their own hand in the center of the heart, add decorations of their choice using markers and stickers and add a ribbon for hanging their heart when it is completed.

**DECORATED HAND:** Give the children a sheet of construction paper to trace their own hands and cut them out. (If you choose, the teacher could have hand cutouts prepared before class.) Take 2 identical hand cutouts and tape them together to form a "glove" that the children could place on their hand. Have the children write something about today's lesson on each finger of the cut-out hand, such as clean hands, clean heart, Forgive us Father for unclean hearts, NO unclean thoughts or words, etc. Children will have their own good ideas after listening to today's lesson. This will encourage discussion as well.

**CLEAN HEARTS:** Provide the children with a very large colored heart. One side will be labeled CLEAN HEART and the other side will be labeled UNCLEAR HEART. Tell children to write or draw pictures representing CLEAN HEART ideas and on the other side, write or draw pictures representing UNCLEAR HEART actions. The children may enjoy gluing colorful yarn or ribbon around the edge of their CLEAN HEART side and black yarn around the edge of the UNCLEAR HEART side.

**BAR SOAP HEART:** If time permits, give the children a bar of soap and a plastic table knife and let them try to carve a HEART out of the soap bar. Tell children to mostly trim off the corners and then begin reshaping the soap to look like a heart.

**CLEAN DISPLAY BOARD:** Let children work as a class to make a LESSON board of today's Bible story. Give them supplies such as paper to draw pictures, disposal gloves to hang on the board, wipes to tape or tack on the board, pictures of hand sanitizers, and heart stickers and drawings. Title the Display Board with ideas from today's lesson and draw hearts around the Title!

**BAR SOAP WRAPPING:** Give each child a bar of soap and a piece of construction paper to wrap around and tape to the bar soap. Tell children to decorate the bar of soap with heart stickers and write HEAVENLY FATHER, FORGIVE US FOR UNCLEAN THOUGHTS. Suggest to the children that they might place the bar soap wrapping in their bathroom or kitchens to remind them of today's very important lesson.

**THREE LAYERED HEART:** Give the children cut out hearts in 3 different sizes so that the children can glue them one on top of another so that the edge of each heart will be seen. A small piece of foam can be glued between each heart so that each heart is separated from the other. Let children write the words on the top heart (or on the edges of hearts 2 and 3) of our prayer today - CREATE IN US CLEAN HEARTS TO HONOR YOU HEAVENLY FATHER.

**CLEAN HANDS AND HEARTS SNACK:** Provide a bottle of liquid hand sanitizer for the children to clean their hands before eating a heart-shaped cookie.

**SING A SONG:** INTO MY HEART; CLEANSE ME

**Song: "Cleanse Me"**

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track

**Song: "Into My Heart"**

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track

### **About Carol Williams**

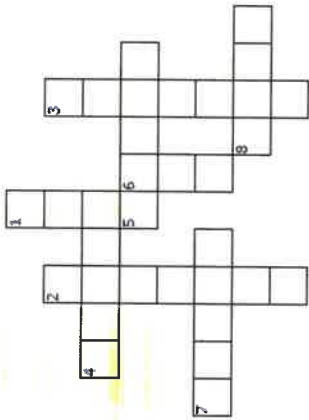
Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

Copyright © 2001-2021 Sermons4Kids, Inc.

All Rights Reserved

Sermons4Kids.com

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
- The center of your emotion, "I love you with all my \_\_\_\_\_"
- The accepted way that things should be done
- The two edges of flesh around the mouth

## DOWN

- To make something clean using soap and water
- Something that is dirty or soiled
- To express love and adoration toward God
- To take food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow

HEART  
LIPS

UNCLEAN  
HANDS

WORSHIP  
EAT

RULES  
WASH



Copyright © Sermons4Kids, Inc.  
May be reproduced for Ministry Use

# Children's Worship Bulletin

## Clean or Unclean?

Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

## Word Search Puzzle

C A B P B U A T Z E G M I J O  
I P H A R I S E E S A R V W M  
G E Y L D L N V Z A A T O L Z  
R U N C L E A N Z N C C I V I  
D K L Y S E L Z T E F H S N J  
F U N D V O X I W W A L E W G  
K J N X I G Y Q P O O G S R P  
F A Y W A S H S M S R E K M S  
H Z L L A K C H B B X S C V S  
L H Y Q U Z S Y P P U Y S R I H  
H F Q U Z S Y P P U Y S R I H  
S O O I G U J E Q L D A X Z P  
B M N O F G L A W X E H F G F  
T P Z O D S P Q R H M S V I H  
N G X J R U L E S A P I B K

LAW  
HANDS  
RULES

WORSHIP  
HEARTS  
EATING

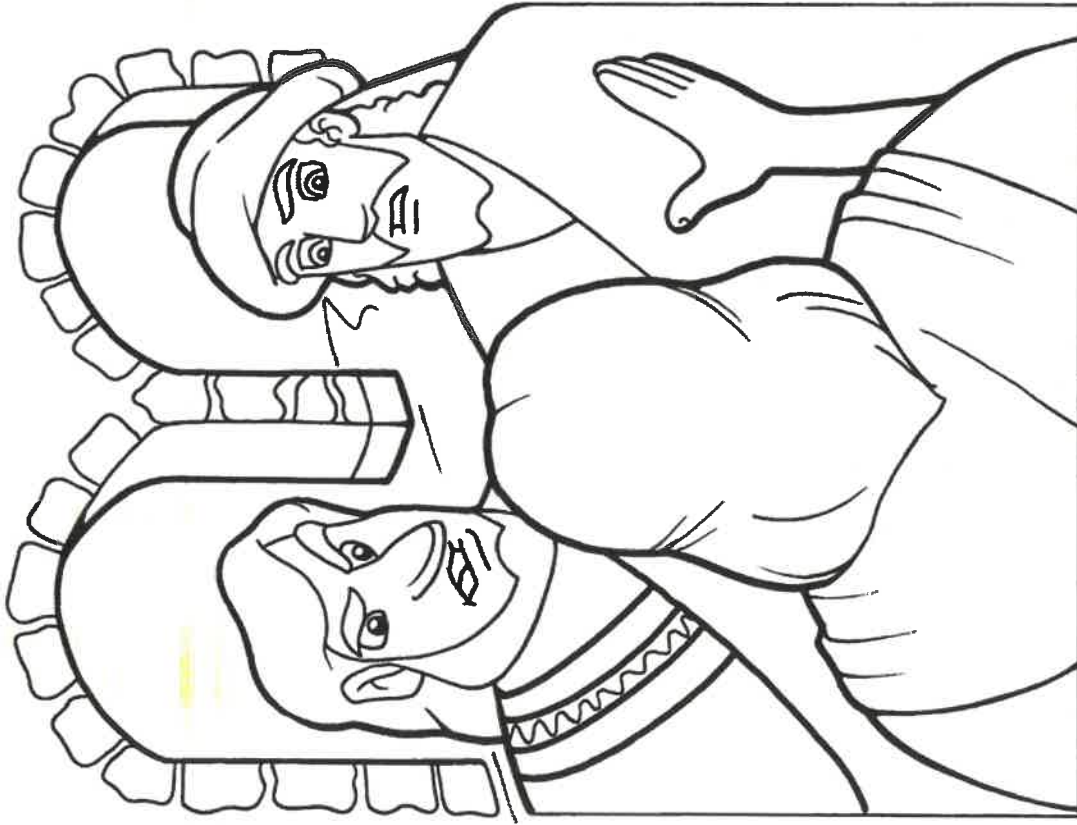
UNCLEAN  
PHARISEES  
LIPS

FOOD  
HYPOCRITES  
HONOR

TEACHERS  
DISCIPLES  
WASH

Your Church Name Here  
Anytown, USA

# Coloring Page



"These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me."

Mark 7:6

Copyright © CalvaryCurriculum.com  
Used by Permission

# Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	E	I	P	R	Q	F	L	M	A	K	J	T	X	D	H	N	O	S	V	U	G	B	W	Z	Y

- 16-18-17-18-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-10-17-15-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-10-19-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-10-13-3-17-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-2-10-5-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24-18-5-19-16-3-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1-8-2-10-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5-21-8-2-19 \_\_\_\_\_

HEART	CLEAN	HANDS	WORSHIP
HONOR	RULES	WASH	EATING



