

15th Sunday
After Pentecost
August 30-
Sept. 5, 2021

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:1-8, 14, 15, 21-23

THEME: Be Clean Inside and Out

SONG: On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

VISUAL: A coffee mug, cup or bowl (not a clear dish) that is clean on the outside but is dirty inside. You could also bring a bowl with water and dish soap.

OBJECT LESSON

Show the children the dish. Show them how clean it looks. Ask them if they would like to have something to eat or to drink using this dish. Then show them the inside of the dish and how dirty it is. Ask them if they would like to eat or drink from this dish now. A dish is not clean until its clean inside and out.

BIBLE TRUTH

The Pharisees in Jesus day were very concerned about looking clean on the outside but they didn't concern themselves with looking clean on the inside. They thought that if they just looked good on the outside by doing good things (like washing their hands in the right way) that God would love them. Or if they just looked better than everyone else, God would love them more than all those other people.

But Jesus showed them how wrong they were. Jesus showed them (Mark 7:6-8) that it wasn't just about looking good and clean on the outside but that our hearts need to be clean just like a bowl isn't clean unless its clean inside and out. None of us are perfectly clean inside or outside. We can't even make ourselves clean. Only Jesus can make us clean. He came into the world and washed all our sins away when he died on the cross and he made us clean in the waters of baptism.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Following Jesus begins in the heart. But we have a problem because our hearts are dirty with sin. Jesus forgave our sins by dying on the cross for us. In church, we celebrate that God changed our hearts and gave us faith. Can you identify one of the pieces of furniture in the church where that happens? (Baptism)

In Baptism God uses his word and water to wash us clean. As his new child, we are now able to serve him! What things can we do to show our thankfulness and love to God for what he has done for us?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for taking all of our sins away. Help us to live each day to your glory out of thanksgiving for all that you've done for us. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

16th
Sunday
After Pentecost
September 6-
Sept. 12, 2021

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37

THEME: Jesus Cares for His People

SONG: On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

VISUAL: Noise eliminating headphones and a mask (optional): A baptismal font (or bowl of water) and a Bible.

OBJECT LESSON

Ask the children if they know what it means to be deaf. Put on the headphones on to explain or put them on a child and talk quietly. Tell them that this is what it's like to be deaf except you can't hear anything. Ask the children if they know what it means to be mute. Put on the mask and let them hear how it can be difficult to understand when you can't talk as clearly. Talk to them about different ways to communicate if you are deaf or mute.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus healed a man who was deaf and mute. He didn't just zap the man healed but he chose to use stuff like spit and he put his fingers in the man's ears. We may not be deaf or mute but in a spiritual sense, we are deaf and mute on our own. We can't hear God speak in the world around us and we can't tell people about who God is if we don't know ourselves.

God opened our ears so that we could also speak. And he used "stuff" to do it. We call it the means of grace. He used water in baptism and he used the Word of the Bible (use the visual of the baptismal font and Bible to explain the means of grace). Through this Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit opens our ears to hear his Word and opened our mouths to confess the faith he created in our hearts.

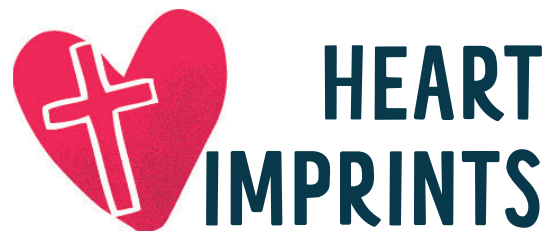
DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus cared for this man and healed him, but he told the man he healed and his friends not to tell people about the miracle. He wanted people to follow him because he was their Savior from sin.

Jesus is our Savior from sin and, like the people in the story, we will want to share that news! Where can we share the message that Jesus cares for us?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we thank you for opening our ears to hear your Word and using our mouths to share your Word with others. Continue to strengthen our faith in you each and every day and give us opportunity to share it with others. Amen.



17th Sunday
After Pentecost
September 13-
Sept. 19, 2021

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:27-35

THEME: Who Is Jesus?

SONG: On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

VISUAL: Pictures of some famous people or characters from children's movies along with a picture of Jesus.

OBJECT LESSON

Hold up several pictures and see if the children can identify who they are. With each picture ask them, "What does this person do? What do you know about them?" When we think of famous people, several thoughts can come to mind. And sometimes what you think about someone might be different than what someone else thinks about that same person. Ask them if the same thing can happen when people think about Jesus?

BIBLE TRUTH

People have different ideas about who Jesus is. Some may say that he's a really nice guy or a good teacher or just an amazing man who healed people. So it's important that we know who Jesus really is. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Messiah, the long-promised Savior of the world. That was a very good answer, but Jesus had to help them see what that meant. Jesus died and rose for us to take away our sins. But that also means that for us who follow Jesus, we might have to face things that we don't like. Sometimes we call that a cross. Jesus calls us now to take up our cross and follow him. But Jesus promises that he will be with us as we carry our crosses. And we can be sure of that because he carried his cross and now he lives forever and he is waiting for us in heaven.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

People wanted Jesus to work miracles, supply food, or lead them to victory against their enemies. Jesus focused on why he came to earth: to be our Savior.

As followers of Jesus, we want to obey God and love and serve our neighbors. How can we stay focused on being a follower of Jesus?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the Savior that we need. Help us to always remember that you are our Savior and no matter what, help us to always follow you. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

18th Sunday
After Pentecost
September 20-
Sept. 26, 2021

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:30-37

THEME: Humble Service to God

SONG: On My Heart Imprint your Image CW(93) 319/320

VISUAL: Picture of the classroom job chart or classroom job duty descriptors

OBJECT LESSON

Ask the children about the jobs they have in the classroom. Which job is considered the job all the students desire? Which job is least desirable? Challenge them on what life would be like without the people who did those jobs. What a blessing it is to see that everyone plays an important role in our lives and God uses each of us to carry out his work in the world.

BIBLE TRUTH

The disciples were arguing about which one of them was the greatest. Rather than giving thanks for the important role that they each played in God's Kingdom, all they did was think about themselves and how important they were. But Jesus changes our perspective. He helps us to see that we are all equally sinful and we are all equally forgiven in him! What a blessing that we don't have to compare ourselves to others and fight to be the greatest. Instead, God lifts us to such important positions that he chooses to use us to carry out his love to others in so many different ways.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What jobs has God given you today? Why is that job important?

God has given you the task of being a student. Can you think of reasons why this is a great blessing for those around you?

Jesus frees us to be great in his kingdom no matter what our job is someday. Think of a job that someone you know has and why that job is so important.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help us to show love to our friends and family and neighbors. Help us to love them just as you have loved us. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**