

Q4

LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus and the Pharisees

2nd-3rd

PursueGODkids.org**Lesson Overview**

In today's lesson, we're going to learn about the Pharisees. They were the religious leaders in Jesus' day. They studied God's law and knew it really well. They also dressed in fancy robes to make themselves stand out among the people. They thought they were really cool. Jesus had a problem with this. He didn't like the attitude of the Pharisees or how they treated people. They were supposed to be the experts on God's ways but they sure didn't act the way God wanted them to act. So, Jesus called them out every chance he got. He reminded everyone, including the Pharisees, that just knowing God's law wasn't enough. The point of the law was to show the people how to live to honor God. One of the main points of the law was to love people the way God has loved us. The Pharisees weren't loving at all and so they were terrible representatives of God's love. Jesus taught that what's in the heart is more important than what's in the brain. So, just knowing what the Bible says isn't enough. It's living it out that matters and we need a relationship with Jesus to do that. So kids, let's not be like the Pharisees who acted like know it alls. Let's be like Jesus who lived out what the Bible said by loving and serving others.

Big Idea

Jesus cares more about our hearts than our smarts

Key Question

What does it mean to be a servant?

Memory Verse

Matthew 23:11 "The greatest among you must be a servant."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Do you have a friend who acts like a know it all? How does it make you feel to be around them?** (Tip: Know it alls make us feel stupid and no-one likes to feel that way. Jesus doesn't like that either.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **You put other people ahead of yourself.** (This is how Jesus loves us. He died on the cross for our sins because of his love for us, not because we had earned it. We should love others by putting their needs ahead of ours. So, let your sibling have the last cookie or do the dishes for your parents. Do things for people without even having to be asked. That will make Jesus so happy!))
 - **Bonus Questions:** What does it mean to be a servant? How has Jesus served us? **4-5th** What's the opposite of a servant?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read John 13:34-35. How has Jesus loved us? How can we show the love of Jesus to others?** (Answer: Jesus gave his life for us. He put our needs above his own in order to fix our relationship with God. We can show the love of Jesus by always telling the truth, finding ways to serve and being kind.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: LESSON REVIEW JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bell or ringer. Read a question from below. First to ring in gets a chance to answer. If correct, that team gets a point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer for a bonus point. Team with the most points at the end, wins.

Questions:

1. Who were the religious leaders? (Pharisees)
2. T or F: God only loves smart people. (F)
3. From what book is our memory verse found? (see board)

4. Why did Jesus get mad at the Pharisees? (weren't loving)
5. What book is full of God's truth? (Bible)
6. What is a servant? (Put others before self)
7. What's the Big Idea today? (see board)
8. T or F: Jesus cares about the heart. (T)
9. Why did Jesus die for us? (Sins)
10. Name one way you can love others.

Supplies needed: Bells/Ringers

OPTION 2: JESUS CARES ABOUT THE HEART CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Heart template (page 5). Have them cut out each item.
- Allow them to color and decorate their hearts and then have them place the two big hearts together, decorated sides facing out, and have them staple around the bottom and sides of the heart but leave the top open like a pouch. Then, have them take the little Jesus heart and place it inside the pouch and have them glue the Big Idea to one side of the heart.
- As they work, remind the kids that they shouldn't be like the Pharisees who were know it alls and cared more about information than how to love. Tell them that Jesus cares more about what's in the heart . When we ask Jesus to live in our hearts, he will help us to love others the way he has loved us.

Supplies needed: Heart template (pg. 5, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Scissors, Staplers, Glue

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The pharisees thought they knew it all, until they met Jesus.

Key Points:

- Pharisees were religious people who thought they were _____ than everyone else.
- Jesus and the _____ didn't always get along.
- The Pharisees knew a lot, but they _____ the most important part.
- Jesus cares more about our _____ than our smarts.

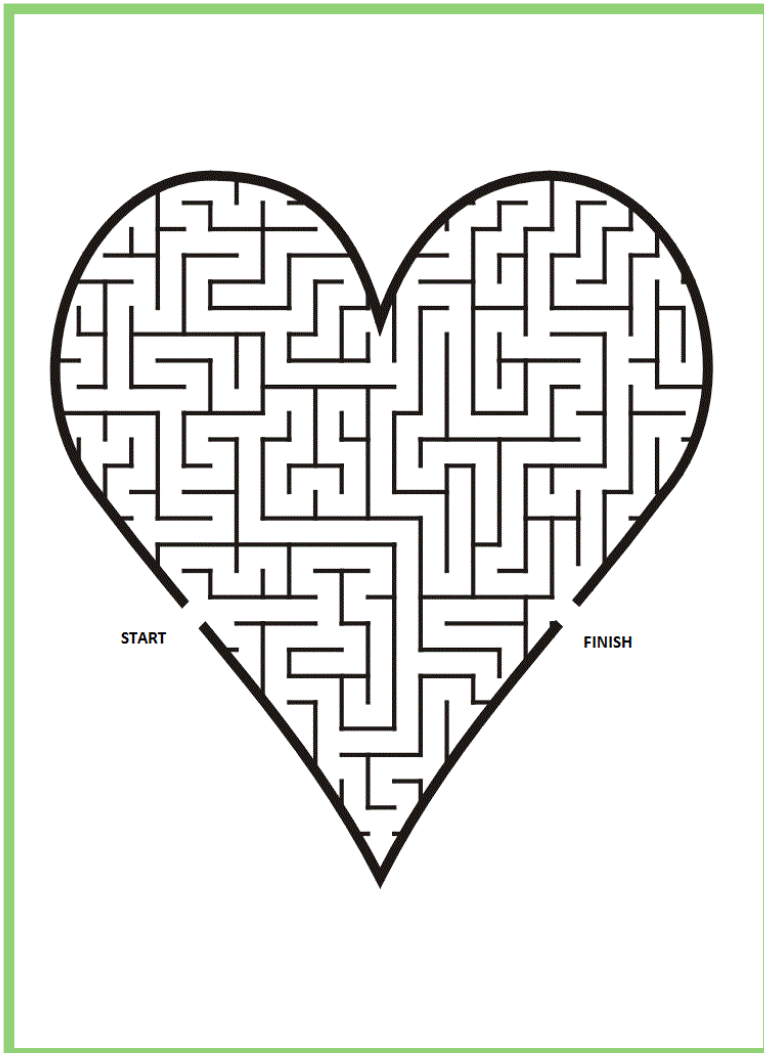
Memory Verse:

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you must be a servant.

Talk About It

- 1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?**
- 2. Do you have a friend who acts like a know it all? How does it make you feel to be around them?**
- 3. Why did the Pharisees think they were better than everyone else? How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees?**
- 4. What does Jesus care more about? Why is just knowing information not enough?**
- 5. Read John 13:34. How has Jesus loved us? How can we show the love of Jesus to others?**
- 6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?**

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

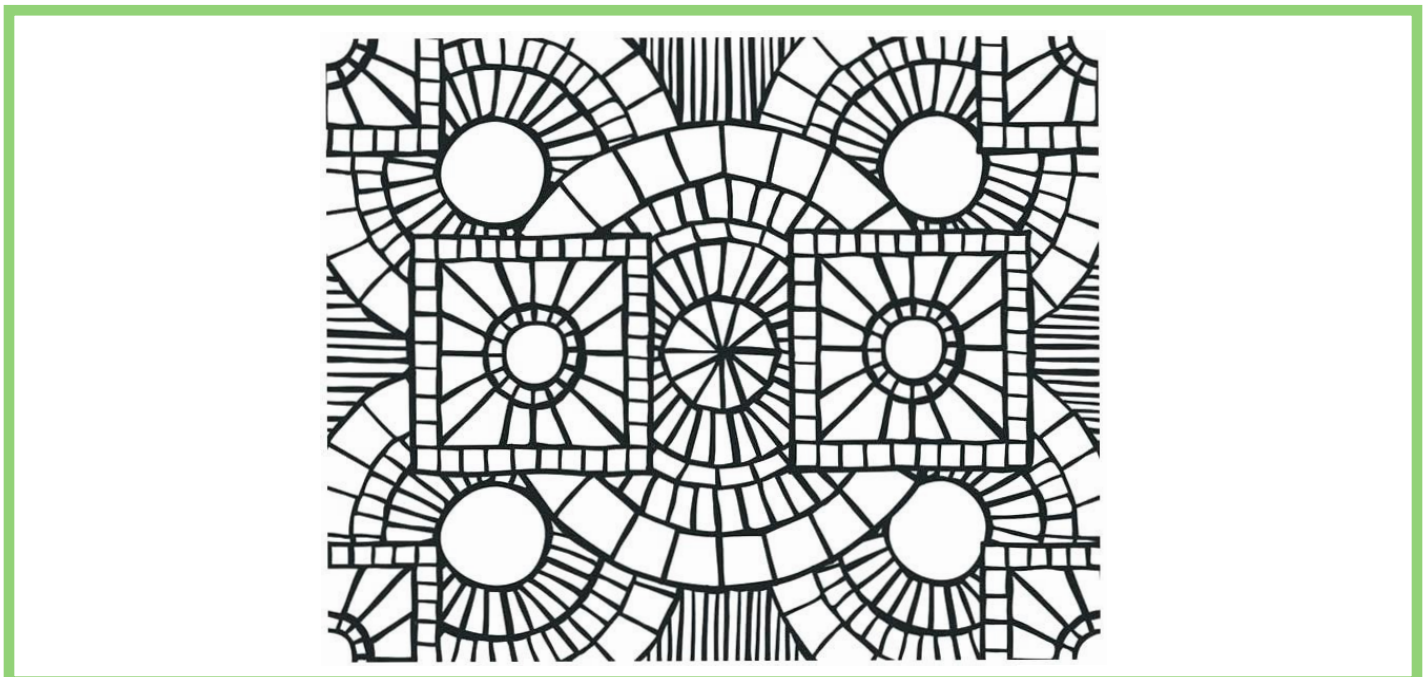


Big Idea

Key Question

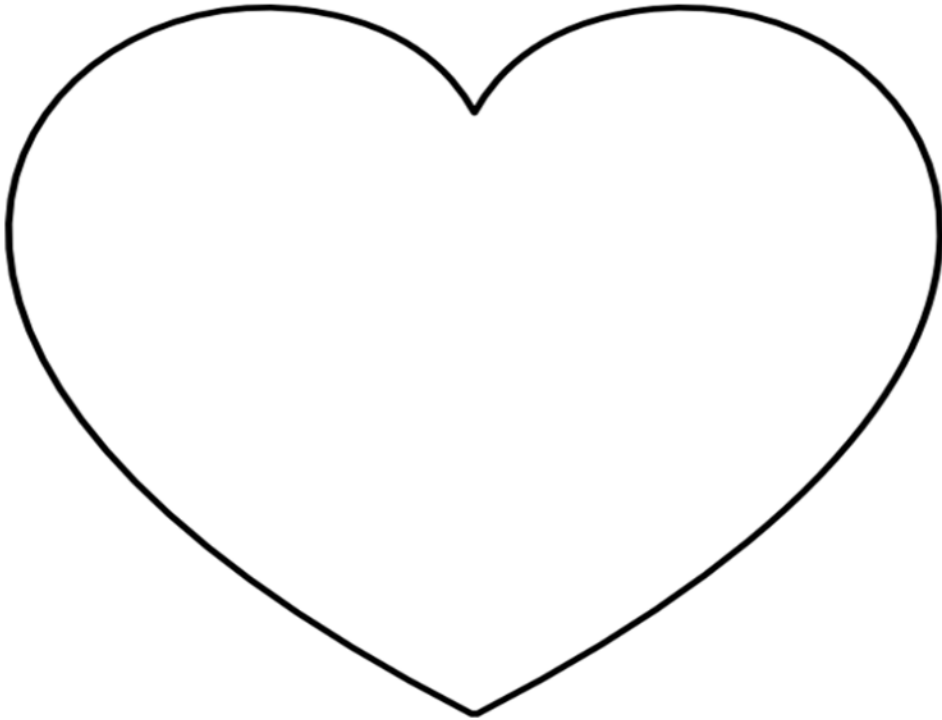
Memory Verse

Matthew 23:____ "The greatest among _____ must be a _____."





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JESUS CARES MORE
ABOUT OUR HEARTS
THAN OUR SMARTS

