

Discussion points:

1. Our hearts are marred by sin.

Read Jeremiah 17:9

Ask children the following:

1. What does Jeremiah mean when he says "heart?"
2. In what ways can our heart deceive us?
3. How are our hearts sick?
4. Who is the only one who can understand them?

Take the opportunity to teach your children about their heart. Nothing has the ability to deceive us like our heart can. Left to itself, it will pursue wickedness and convince us it is not. Therefore, we must be aware that without Christ, our hearts do not desire what is Christ like.

2. God can see our heart.

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7

Ask children the following:

1. What things were impressive about Eliab?
2. Why was God not impressed with Eliab?
3. What kind of things do we usually judge?
4. What does God see?

Take the opportunity to teach your children about God's ability to see the heart. There are two sides to this understanding: a) man cannot see the heart, b) ONLY God can see the heart. Therefore, only God has the ability to see what is happening in our hearts.

3. We should trust God more than we trust ourselves.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

Ask children the following:

1. How fully should we trust in God?
2. Are we trusting God when we fully depend on our own understanding?
3. What does it mean to acknowledge all your ways to God?
4. How can He make your paths straight?

Take the opportunity to encourage your children that there will be times when God's way seems contrary to our way. In those moments, we should trust what God says over what we think. We should fully rely in Him, knowing He never fails.

4. The Bible helps us understand our hearts.

Read Hebrews 4:12

Ask children the following:

1. How can a book be living and active?
2. What does it mean that the Bible is sharper than a sword?
3. How can the Bible help us see our motives?
4. How can the Bible judge our intentions?

Take the opportunity to encourage your children that the Word of God has the ability to help us understand our motives. Even though it was written 2,000 years ago, the Bible is relevant and accurate for today because it can help us see our hearts. The Bible goes beyond rules and commandments and actually has the ability to investigate our hearts...to discern why we do what we do.

Table Talk

You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

-Deuteronomy 6:7

