

# Children's Ministry

THIRD  
FOURTH

January 24<sup>th</sup> || Matthew 5:1-20

Main Point: **Only Jesus is perfect, like God demands**

(Try to repeat the main point several times.)

Read Matthew 5:17-20 and ask:

1. Did Jesus come to lower God's standards?
2. What happens to those who lower God's standards, either in actions or teaching?
3. Can we perfectly keep and teach God's standards?
4. How can someone be more righteous than the Pharisees?

Read Romans 3:10-20 & Romans 4:1-3 and ask:

1. How does the Bible describe people? Are we righteous?
2. Can we clean up our actions to be righteous?
3. What about Abraham? Was Abraham perfect or was he a sinner?
4. How did Abraham become righteous?

Example of holiness:

Show the kids the paint chip labeled "4" (label is on the back). Ask them what color it is. (Hopefully, they say white!) Show them each paint chip in reverse order (3, 2, then 1). What color do they say each paint chip is? Do they want to change their answers about any chips after they have seen the others? At the end, ask the kids which chip seems to be totally white. This is like holiness. Holiness is not being better than other people. Holiness is being totally perfect. It's like the pure white chip.

Explain to the kids that Abraham was not perfect. In fact, the book of Genesis tells us about many of his sins. God is not looking for someone who is better than others, or isn't as big a sinner as others. God is looking for perfection, and Abraham was not perfect. However, Romans 4 teaches us that Abraham received righteousness (perfection/holiness) as a gift from God by faith. When Abraham had faith in God, God was willing to give the perfection to Abraham. (See "Driving it Home...")

- Ask the kids:
1. Do I think I am good enough on my own, or that I need Jesus' perfection to be able to stand before God?
  2. How should being righteous in Jesus change me?

Driving it

home...



"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."—2 Corinthians 5:21

God demands perfection, and we are sinners. He must punish all sin. But through Jesus, God has our sins punished on Him, and all of his righteousness (holiness/perfection) is placed upon us. God demands perfection and Jesus is perfect. And He offers, through believing in Jesus' death and resurrection for our sins, that we can have Jesus' perfection applied to us. Then, when God looks at me, He sees perfection, because He sees Jesus!