

Day 1: A man may look pretty good, and still not follow Jesus.

Read Luke 18:18-27, and ask your children:

1. Who did Jesus say is good?
2. Listen to the answer of the man about the commandments. Did he think he was good?
3. How does Jesus say will have a hard time entering heaven?
4. How is salvation made possible?

Being rich is not a problem. And this man's "wealth" was not just his money. This man came to Jesus, who right away reminded him the standard for righteousness is God. However, when questioned about the commandments, this man considered himself flawless. When Jesus offered him a chance to follow Him, the man was sad, for it meant giving up everything he had accomplished for himself. However, God opens the eyes of some to see their need!

Day 2: God does not hear the man who thinks he is righteous on his own.

Read Luke 18:9-17, and ask your children:

1. What was the attitude of the Pharisee?
2. What attitude is visible in the tax collector?
3. Who does Jesus say was actually forgiven?
4. What should our attitude be?

Jesus teaches a story to show that the man who thinks he's righteous because he seems better than others is still dead in his sins. However, the man who comes before God humble; realizing he is totally dependant upon God (have mercy literally means "take my penalty") will find forgiveness.

Day 3: You must not just see that you sin, but that Jesus is your only means of forgiveness.

Read Isaiah 53:6, and ask your children:

1. Who does this verse say has strayed?
2. Who does this verse say we are obeying when we do what we want?
3. Who took our sin upon Himself?
4. Who put that sin upon Him?

It is not enough for a person to believe everyone sins. Many passages throughout the Bible teaches us this. We must also see that our sin is direct rebellion to God, thus making us incapable of "fixing" it. Therefore, we are dependant upon Jesus to take away our sin, and this happened when God laid our sin upon Jesus at the cross!

Day 4: We should beg others to see Jesus as their only means to righteousness.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 and ask your children:

1. What is an ambassador?
2. What should be our message?
3. What did God take from us?
4. What did God give to us?

We should call other people to give up their idea of earning a relationship with God by begging them to choose to follow Christ. We can use our own testimony as a reference. We are forgiven our sins, and righteous only because Jesus did all the work. We did not earn our own righteousness, but God gave us the righteousness of Jesus!