

Messy: Devotional and Game – Week 1

Devotion – 5 Minutes

Game – 5 Minutes

Over the next few weeks, we are going to get really messy. We are going to play with paint...and shaving cream...and lots of messy things.

We're going to get our hair messy, our clothes messy, our bodies messy. We are going to be a total mess!

We're also going to learn about several people from the Bible who made a total mess out of their lives.

They made some REALLY big mistakes...and they messed up their entire lives.

But the good news is that God still used them...with all of their imperfections...to do great things.

Why? Because God looks down deep inside a person's heart.

He knows when a person has simply messed up...and He forgives.

Have you ever messed up so badly that it left you believing that God wants nothing to do with you?

Have you ever messed up so badly that you thought that God could never use you for anything good?

Have you ever messed up so badly that you thought that God could never forgive you?

If your answer is "yes," then you're in good company, because we all have.

We've all made poor choices and bad decisions.

But, if we're willing to admit that we have messed up...then Jesus will forgive.

In fact, He specializes in ministering to messed-up people.

One of the greatest examples of this is found in the book of John. In chapter 4, Jesus encounters a woman at a well.

This nameless woman meets Jesus while she performs one of the most boring tasks in her messed-up life — drawing water out of a well.

She quickly learned a lesson we all need to know as well — that Jesus can clean up...and change our lives...if we are willing to admit that we messed up...if we are willing to admit that we have sinned.

Jesus wants to clean up our mess-ups so much that He will break down every possible barrier to do so.

(In Depth Teaching: Teach on the woman at the well on Sunday)

(GAME BELOW)

Devotion – Week 1 – Messy

Quick Game: (Don't take it over 5 minutes) Have You Ever?

Have everyone sit down...volunteers and leaders should play along too.

Ask a series of questions and have those who can answer YES to stand up and REMAIN standing.

Ask questions such as:

- 1. Have you ever told a lie?**
- 2. Have you ever disobeyed your parents?**
- 3. Have you ever taken something that did not belong to you?**
- 4. Have you ever talked about someone behind their back?**
- 5. Have you ever been mean to your brother or sister?**

Limit your questions to 5

- Most children should be standing by this time.**
- Some children will not stand...no matter what the question might be. They are not ready or willing to admit that they have ever done anything wrong...and that is ok. Don't point them out, don't reference them, etc.**
- For those standing...tell them that all the things that they stood up for are called sins.**
- The sins that we have committed are things that will mess up our lives.**
- The Bible says that we are all sinners**
- The first step to entering heaven when we die...is that we admit that we have sinned.**
- When we admit that we have sinned and ask for forgiveness...God forgives and cleans up all the messes.**
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This week...think about the things you have done wrong and ask God to forgive you...and to clean up the mess you have made.

Messy: Devotional – Week 2

Devotion – 5-10 Minutes

Did you know that in the Bible, there are 772 references to the word “WATER?”

When God makes reference to something that many times, it is a good indication that whatever He is referring to is very, very important.

So, when you think of the word “Water” what do you think of?

Take only 4-5 answers here. Keep very short!

Drinking

Water balloons

Water slide

Taking a bath

We use water for a lot of things don't we?

When I think of the word “water” I think of something being washed...or cleansed...especially with the virus that is plaguing our world right now.

Cleaning...or washing things is high on our list of priorities right now isn't it?

Washing our hands...washing off surfaces...keeping things clean.

But in the Bible, God talked about a different type of cleansing.

The type of cleansing that a man named Saul went through in the Bible.

You see, Saul was a horrible man...he did all kinds of bad things...things like killing and beating people...tossing them in jail.

He was a very sinful man.

Until one day...He had an encounter with God and his life changed forever.

Saul realized that the things that he was doing were wrong. These things would separate Saul from God forever. Saul realized that this wasn't a good place to be.

So Saul prayed...he admitted he was a sinner...he confessed all of his sins...and he asked God to forgive him....and do you know what God did?

He forgave Saul...and He washed all of Saul's sins away.

If God can forgive Saul for all of the things that he had done...do you think that God can forgive you for your sins?

Do you think that Saul's sins are greater than your sins?

(Take an answer or two here...very short)

Did you know that God does not look at sin the same way that we do? God looks at sin for what it is...it is sin!

To God...ANY sin...no matter how tiny we may think it is...separates us from God.

So Saul's sin...and our sin...measure the same.

It ALL separates us from God.

BUT...it doesn't have to be that way.

When we read about Saul, we find out that Saul asked God to forgive him...he turned from his evil ways...and he followed God.

Saul's sins were washed away!

So how can our sins be washed away? We can pray and ask God to forgive us...and He will wash our sins away too!

And once we have asked God to take our sins away, we can invite Him to come and live inside of our hearts and be our Lord and Savior.

Last week, we learned that the first step in going to heaven when we die is to admit that we are a sinner...that was step one.

Step two is asking for forgiveness of our sins.

Step three is to invite God to come and live inside our hearts.

This week

- **Spend time talking to God**
- **Make a list of your sins**
- **Talk with your parent's and ask them to help you with any questions that you have.**
- **And then "IF" and "WHEN" you are ready to ask God to forgive you of your sins...ask Him...and then tear up your list of sins!**
 - **Then, invite God to come and live inside of your heart.**

This Sunday, we will be learning more about Saul and his great transformation...so make sure to come on Sunday morning.

Teach on Sunday about Saul on the road to Damascus and his transformation.

Messy: Devotional – Week 3
Slip and Slide
Devotion – 5-10 Minutes

**How many of you have ever slid down a
“Slip and Slide?”**

**A “Slip and Slide” can be a lot of fun...BUT, if we aren’t careful, we can slip and
fall backwards...hitting the back of our heads.**

**Trying to walk a life that is pleasing to God can be much like trying to walk down
a slippery slide.**

Sometime...we get it right...and the ride is all fun and games.

**But sometimes...we get it wrong...and the road can be quite bumpy...and
painful.**

**Last week, we learned that we can ask God to forgive us for all of the bad things
that we have done in our lives...all of the sins that we have committed...and God
will forgive us.**

**We also learned that we can ask the Holy Spirit to come live inside our hearts...
and to help lead and guide us...to help us when we are faced with tough
decisions...and He will.**

**During our lifetime, we will face many trials...sometimes...we will make good
decisions.**

But sometimes...even though the Holy Spirit is encouraging us to make the right decision...we will choose incorrectly.

We will choose to do things our own way...instead of God's way.

Why? Because we are human...and human's make mistakes.

In fact, sometimes, we have to make a bad decision...and fall...before can we learn to make a good decision.

In the Bible, Peter was faced with a challenge just like this!

Even though Jesus had warned Peter that a great challenge was coming his way...a weak and fearful Peter chose to do things his way.

When Peter was put to the ultimate test...He failed Jesus.

There will be times in our lives...that we will fail Jesus.

There will be times when we choose to go our own way.

There will be times when we are displeasing to God.

But the good news is this....When Peter disappointed Jesus...when he chose his own way instead of God's way....Jesus forgave him...and He will forgive you too.

Once you ask Jesus to come into your heart...to be your Lord and Savior...He will be there forever....and He will never turn His back on you.

No matter how far you slide...no matter how big of a mistake you make...God will always be standing at the end to help you up.

Once you have asked Jesus to come into your heart...you are never alone.

God will always be with you...and He will never leave you.

God expects us to do our very best...He expects us to try our hardest to be pleasing to Him.

But if...and when...we slip backwards...God is always ready to pick us up and set our feet back on solid ground.

Just like He did with Peter.

Sunday's Lesson

Teach on Peter Denying Christ 3X on Sunday.

Messy: Devotional – Week 4
Kool-Aid-Wars
Plan of Salvation

Devotion – 5-10 Minutes

Today, we are going to have a Kool-Aid War...but before we begin, I want to teach you something important...using Kool-Aid

As you can see, I have several buckets of Kool-Aid, an old white sheet (**hang it up where the kids can see it well**) and several Kool-Aid Shooters.

Let's see.....we have... (**Point to each bucket**)...

Black Kool- Aid (**Use the Clear Kool-Aid and add some black food coloring to it.**)

Invisible Kool Aid – Which is “Clear” ...but it smells soooo sweet. (**Use the Clear Kool-Aid**)

I have some Strawberry Kool-Aid which is red. (**Add some red food coloring to make it show up better**)

I have some Blue Raspberry Lemonade which is blue. (**Add some blue food coloring to make it show up better**)

I have some Green Apple Kool-Aid which is **Green** (**Add some green food coloring to make it show up better**)

And I have some Lemonade Kool-Aid (**Add some yellow food coloring to make it show up better**)

Time for some fun:

You will suck up the different colors of Kool-Aid into each water shooter as you explain the different colors and shoot it onto the white sheet.

(BLACK KOOL-AID)

First of all, I am going to suck up some of this black Kool-Aid into my shooter

Wow! Look at that...Do you know what this black color reminds me of?

It reminds me of SIN...all the bad things that we do.

Things like lying...and disobeying...and taking things that don't belong to us.

(Squirt the black onto the sheet as you are talking about sin)

In Romans 3:23

The Bible tells us "For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".

That means that because of our sin, we are separated from God.

Therefore, WE...YOU or I...cannot go to heaven when we die...because we have sin in our life.

God does not allow sin into heaven.

(Squirt some more black onto the sheet)

Wow! Look at all that mess.

(RED KOOL-AID)

Wouldn't it be sad if we were separated from God forever?

**It's a good thing that God loves us so much...or He wouldn't have made a way
for us to be with Him in heaven when we die.**

(Start sucking up the Red Kool-Aid into your shooter)

The Bible tells us this in John 3:16

**"For God so LOVED the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

(Squirt the Red Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

God loves us so much...that He gave His one and only son...as a sacrifice for us.

**In Romans 5:8 the Bible tells us that "While we were still sinners, Christ died for
us."**

(Squirt more Red Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

Jesus shed His own blood as a sacrifice for our sins...Your sins...and my sins!

(CLEAR KOOL AID)

*Next, I'm going to try this Clear Kool Aid
(Start sucking the clear Kool-Air up into your shooter)*

That's cool...Look, you can't see any color...but it sure smells sweet...doesn't it?

Do you know what this clear Kool-Aid reminds me of?

It reminds me of the sweet scent of forgiveness.

(Squirt the clean Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

I can't see anything...can you?

Do you remember when we learned about asking God for forgiveness?

*If we pray...and ask God to forgive us of our sins...He will forgive us...and our
sins will be wiped away!*

In 1 John 1:9 the Bible tells us this:

***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness.***

*This scripture tells us that God will forgive us of our sins...and He will wash them
away...they will be gone...invisible...just like this Kool-Aid.*

(Squirt more clear Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

That is AMAZING!

BLUE KOOL-AID

Now, let's see....let's try the Blue Raspberry Lemonade Kool-Aid next.

(Start sucking the blue Kool-Aid up in your shooter)

Oooooohhhh I like the color blue...and it smells so heavenly!

Do you know what I think of when I look at this blue Kool-Aid?

I think about water

(Squirt some of the blue Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

We haven't learned about Baptism this summer...but we will be learning a lot about it in a couple of weeks...during our Water Olympics event.

A Baptism is a celebration. It's when we get to stand in front of our family, our friends and our church and tell them that we have asked Jesus to come into our hearts.

After the Pastor tells everyone the good news...he will submerge us...dunk us... into the water and then he will raise us back up again.

And all of our family and friends will rejoice with us.

(Squirt the blue Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

The Bible tells us this in Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

We will learn more about Baptism in a couple of weeks.

GREEN KOOL-AID

Whose favorite color is GREEN?

(Start sucking up the green Kool-Aid)

When I see the color green, I think of grass...and trees...and flowers...things that grow.

(Squirt the green Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

Once you have asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins...and He is living inside your heart...you too will start to grow.

(Squirt more of the green Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

Not like a flower...or a tree...or even the grass.

You will start to grow in knowledge...and wisdom.

As you begin to read your Bible...and come to church on a regular basis...you will begin to grow in both knowledge...and wisdom.

YELLOW KOOL AID

Oh Wow! We are down to one last color...the Yellow!

(Start sucking up the yellow Kool-Aid into the squirter)

Once we have asked Jesus to forgive us of our sins...when we have asked Him to come live inside our hearts...when our journey on this earth is done.

We will enter into heaven...where God is sitting on His throne.

Would anyone like to take a guess as to what the yellow represents?

(Squirt the yellow Kool-Aid onto the sheet)

The yellow represents Heaven...and the streets of Gold!

Our final destination!

The Bible tells us this in Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”

THAT...will be a beautiful day!

Supply List

2 Pkg's Grape Kool-Aid (use this for the black color...add some black food coloring to it to make it black)

2 Pkgs – Red Kool-Aid (add red food coloring to it to make it darker)

2 Pkgs – Clear Kool-Aid – You can use water and some sweet smelling (clear) flavoring if you can't find the Clear Kool-Aid

2 Pkg's Blue Kool-Aid (add blue food coloring to it to make it darker)

2 Pkg's Green Kool-Aid – (add green food coloring to it to make it darker)

2 Pkg's Lemonade (add yellow food coloring to it to make it darker)

6 Buckets

6 Water Shooters

Old White Sheet, White Cloth, etc.

Someway to hang your sheet up...(you can spread it onto the ground if you do not have any other way of displaying it!

Messy: Devotional – Week 5

Bubbles

Gifts and Talents

Devotion – 5-10 Minutes

(Gather Bubble Wands...different sizes 3 or 4)

Have you ever noticed that bubbles come in all sizes...and all shapes?

(You can use the different wands to blow bubbles)

Why do you think that some bubbles are larger than others?

(The correct answer will be that the larger wand produces a larger bubble)

That's correct, when we use a larger wand, we will get larger bubbles.

That's similar to what we touched briefly on last week when we were talking about GROWING.

Once we accept Jesus, we will start reading our Bibles more...we will start going to church more...AND we will start volunteering to serve more...our Faith and our Christian walk will begin to grow.

When we start serving in the church, we will start discovering that God has given each of us some pretty amazing talents...or we will find places to use the talents that we have already discovered.

A talent...or a gift...is something that you are good at...something that you enjoy...something that you LOVE to do!

And we should use those talents...or gifts to serve the Lord.

For instance...if you like to sing...God will use you.

If you like to work with puppets...God will use you.

If you like to draw...or paint...God will use you.

Not only will He use you...He will increase your joy and He will increase your talent.

Do you have a gift or talent?

What are you doing with it?

Believe it or not, God has given each of us a special talent or gift...often...more than one.

He created each of us uniquely and he has a plan for our lives.

If you don't know what your talent is, think about what comes really easy for you.

Think about what you absolutely love to do.

If you still can't figure out what your talent is...don't worry...God will reveal it to you in time.

In the meantime, just step out...get involved...and serve.

You may be surprised at what God reveals to you.

And when God reveals your talents to you...make sure that you use those talents for God's glory.

If God is not being glorified through us...through our talents...then we are not using God's talents correctly.

If you have a gift for singing...use that gift to glorify God...sing in the choir, sing at nursing homes, sing anywhere that you can bring glory to God.

If you can play a guitar...or a musical instrument...use it to glorify God.

If you are good at sports...use it to glorify God.

If you're good with tools...use it to glorify God.

Whatever talent God gives you...use it to glorify God.

We must work together and use these talents for God's glory.

When we use our talents for God, He will magnify them....

He will take them and He will make them bigger and bigger and bigger....just like our bubbles!

What are you doing with the talents you received from God?

1 Corinthians 12:14 says "For the body is not one member, but many."

God has given each of us a special gift. No matter how 'big' or 'small' you consider that gift to be, God expects us to use it. He wants us to use our talents for his glory and we will see God's mighty hand actively at work in our lives.

Don't waste your talents!

Sunday...Teach on Matthew 25:14-30; The Talents

Devotional – Week 6
Living Water

Devotion – 5-10 Minutes

Who can name a daily activity that requires the use of water?

Help the kids brainstorm ideas!

Taking a bath

Brushing your teeth

Using the restroom (flush toilet and washing hands)

Preparing a meal

Washing Dishes

Washing your face

Washing your car

Watering your plants

Now, imagine doing those things without any water.

Is it possible?

While we may be able to figure out ways to do a couple of the things that we have listed...most of them would be impossible to do without water.

Water is a major part of the things we do each day.

Not only is it a part of the things we do...it is also a necessary part of our survival.

God created us with an essential need for water...we need it to survive.

In fact, our bodies are 60% water.

Living in the United States, we often forget just how blessed we are to have cool, clear, fresh, water.

We often take for granted all of the daily blessings...the daily conveniences that we have.

We forget that without good...clean water...we would not live.

Anyone who has traveled or lived through a natural disaster understands the challenges of going without water...even if it is only for a short period of time.

Anyone who has been on a mission trip to a foreign country understands the challenges of going without fresh, clean water ...even if it is only for the short period of time.

Anyone who has been lost in the desert...or in the woods...understands the challenges of going without water...even if it is only for a short period of time.

Water is very, very important.

But...there is something far more important than going without water...and that is going without the Lord's presence.

In John 4:13-14 we read:

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Jesus called Himself the living water, which will never leave us thirsty.

Most of us know that God is with us during the difficult times in our lives.

But...sometimes...we forget that God walks with us every single moment...of every single day....during the bad times....and the good times.

We often lean on God during difficult times...But we forget to thank Him during good times.

We cling to Him when we are in trouble...but we forget to hold His hand when things are running smooth.

We call on Him for help....but we forget to invite Him to celebrate the triumphs.

We forget to sit and sip...of the cool, clear water that Jesus offers.

Don't wait until times of trouble...take time now to appreciate God's presence and drink deeply of it.

Allow His spirit to fill you, and do not hesitate to accept His ever-ready friendship!

Sunday Lesson Suggestion:

The Woman at the Well

John 4

**Devotional – Week 7
Water Olympics
Baptism
Devotion – 5-10 Minutes**

Today, we are going to get drenched with water...water...and more water!

I guess you could call it a “Water celebration”

But before we get started, we’re going to learn about Baptism...which is the absolute ultimate water celebration!

I know that a lot of you have questions about being baptized...and I know there are a lot of misconceptions...wrong thoughts... about being baptized.

So today, I am going to quickly answer those questions and then we are going to splish...and splash...and celebrate!

I’m sure that all of you have seen someone being baptized.

Baptism is when the Pastor places you gently under the water and quickly lifts you back up.

When the Pastor leans you back and places you under the water...this symbolizes the death and burial of Jesus.

(Use your hands to show the standing straight and then leaning back)

Then when the Pastor lifts you back up out of the water...it symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus.

(Use your hands to demonstrate rising from the water)

Makes sense doesn’t it?

Jesus was obedient to God in dying for the sins of the world.

Baptism is a demonstration of our obedience to Jesus.

Jesus told us in the Bible to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism identifies us with Jesus.

When we are baptized...it shows everyone that we belong to Him...that we have asked Jesus to come into our heart.

Baptism does NOT get you into heaven.

It is simply an act of obedience.

If we have asked Jesus to come into our hearts...to be our Lord and Savior...then we need to be obedient to His Word.

Believing that Jesus died for your sins...confessing your sins and asking for forgiveness...is what opens the doors to heaven for you.

Baptism is simply being obedient to Jesus...and sharing your decision with the church, your family...and your friends.

Baptism also identifies us with the church...not just the people in this building...but all Christians...God's family...all other Christians.

Some children...even some adults...are scared of being placed under water... and that's okay...and God understands.

When the time is right...God will remove that fear...or when you are ready to tackle that fear...you can be baptized then.

Some children...do not ask Jesus to come into their hearts...because they are scared of being baptized. Don't let being baptized prevent you from asking Jesus into your heart.

If you do not confess your sins and ask Jesus into your heart...you will not go to heaven when you die.

Accept Jesus first...and then get baptized when you are ready.

YOU get to choose when you are ready...no one else!

Some people think that getting baptized means that they will go to heaven...and that is not true.

Simply being baptized without accepting Christ...will not get you into heaven.

You must repent of your sins and ask for forgiveness in order to go to heaven...there is no other way!

Baptism is done AFTER you accept Christ.

It's a time to celebration with all of our family and friends.

It's a time to say "Hey, look everyone...I have asked Jesus into my heart...and I want to share the good news with my family and friends...I want to celebrate because I am now part of God's family."

Now...let's go get drenched with water!!!

Devotion

The Great Mestival

Cleaning up the Mess

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus can forgive our sins and help us start anew.

OBJECTIVE: Kids will learn how Jesus can help us clean up even the biggest messes.

Over the course of our lives, we will make many mistakes...these mistakes are called sin.

Sin can be things like lying, taking things that don't belong to us or talking badly about others behind their backs.

All of these things are considered sin...and sins separate us from God.

PRIDE is also a sin.

Pride is thinking that we are better than everyone else.

When we think that our opinions, our feelings, our accomplishments, our thoughts, and our beliefs...are better than everyone else's.

In the Bible, there were many prideful people...just like there are in our world today.

One of the greatest examples of PRIDE...is Satan...the devil.

Satan thought that he was better than God. He thought that his ideas, his ways, his thoughts were better than God's.

In fact Satan thought that he should be God!

And we all know how that worked out don't we? He was thrown from heaven.

Don't allow pride take root in your life. Don't be a prideful person!

And just as importantly....do not allow other prideful people to influence you with their... ideas, thoughts, beliefs and opinions...if they go against what the Bible teaches.

Remember, there were fallen angels that were thrown out of heaven too...right along with Satan.

These were angels who fell for Satan's lies...they were prideful just like Satan.

What a mess they made of their lives!

But guess what?

We have all made messes of our lives too...lying, being unkind, disobeying, taking things that do not belong to us.

All sins...each one...separating us from God!

But there is hope...and that hope is Jesus!

Jesus died on the cross...and when He did, He paid the price for our sins. Not just my sins. Not just your sins, not just your parent's sins...but everyone's sins.

He died for our past sins....He died for the sins we will commit today...and He died for the sins that we will commit in the FUTURE.

WHY would He die for the sins that we commit in the future?

Because God...is all powerful!

Because God... is all knowing!

Because God knew... that each of us...as humans...would sin again!

And God did not want SIN to separate us!

You see, God know that we will mess up.

Some of us will have bad days...we will make bad choices...but we kind of bounce back because we know that God us with us...and that God will help us through.

But some of us may mess up so badly that we will hit rock bottom.

We may feel that there is no one or nothing that can save us.

We may feel that God is far, far away and that He doesn't care about us.

WE may feel that God could never forgive us for what we have done.

But that's not true.

When you asked Jesus to come into your heart and to forgive you or YOUR SINS...He already KNEW what your sins were...He already knew what choices you would make...and He already knew where your life would lead you...AND HE ALREADY FORGAVE YOU!

When you are facing some of your darkest days...don't give up...because God is right there with you.

He may not change the situation that you are in...but He will USE the situation to make you stronger...or to make someone else stronger through you!

Don't give up...Don't give in...Don't give out!

Once you have asked Jesus into your heart...He is ALWAYS with you...No matter how MESSY your life may be!