

Ages 7-10

Open Your Heart

Materials Needed for Each Child

Heart Templates p. 2, a spring clothespin, piece of stiff red paper, piece of stiff white paper, tape, scissors, crayons or markers

Prepare in Advance

Print copies of the *Heart Templates* on stiff red paper and stiff white paper. Cut the pages in half so each child can have 1 red heart and 1 white heart. Save several of the Word Banks as well.

New Church Concept In Our Hearts

Good people out of the good treasure of their hearts bring forth what is good; evil people out of the evil treasure of their hearts bring forth what is evil. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45; Matthew 12:35) In the Word, the heart means our will, and this is the source of our thinking and speaking." See *Doctrine of Life* 51

When a paralyzed man was brought to Jesus to be healed He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." (Mark 2:5) This upset some people because they did not know Jesus was God and thought only God could forgive sins. Without a word being said, Jesus knew their thoughts and said, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?" The Lord knows what's in our hearts. He calls us to have a pure heart. Explore what's in your heart by making a heart that opens to reveal what's inside.

1. What is a "kind-hearted" person like? How about people who are "tender-hearted" or "hard-hearted"?
2. In today's story the Lord could tell what people near Him were thinking in their hearts before they had said a word! It was a miracle. Can we know what others are thinking? What clues might help us glimpse what's in a person's heart? Can we know for certain what others are thinking?
3. What clues might help us know what's in our *own* hearts?
4. We are going to make a heart that opens so we can peek in to see what's inside. Using scissors, cut a red and a white heart out of stiff paper.
5. Cut the red heart in half as shown in the picture. Tape the two halves carefully to a spring clothespin.
6. Choose a word or several words to write on the middle of your white heart, at approximately the place where the red heart opens when the clothespin is squeezed. Use the *Word Bank* on p. 2 for inspiration, if needed.
7. Tape the white heart behind the red heart, on the other side of the clothespin. Squeeze the clothespin to reveal what's in your heart.



