Learn by Doing

Choice Cleaning Selfish Thoughts

The Lord is the source of all truth. We receive truth through the Word. How we receive the Lord's truth depends on what we know and care about. In order to clearly see and understand the truth, we must examine our minds and remove false ideas that can prevent us from seeing clearly. This is the work of a lifetime. The longer we work, the more clearly we will see the Lord. Clean up some dirty water and see what it takes!

1. Pour water into one of the bowls. This clean water corresponds to true ideas from the Lord's Word. When we read the Word, ideas from the Lord come into our minds. Our minds have many other ideas in them as well. Some of these are true and some are not true. When ideas from the Word mix with ideas that are not true, it becomes harder to see the Lord's ideas clearly. For example, the Word teaches that we should do good things for others. But if we do good things so that others will think we are great, we are mixing a true idea with a false idea!
2. We will now make the water in the bowl dirty so we can get a picture of what our minds look like when true and false ideas are mixed. Have each child add a "pollutant" to the water. Encourage the sharing of false ideas as each thing is added.
3. If we want to know what the Lord really wants for us, we need to separate the true and false.
4. How can we clean this water up? (Encourage brainstorming. Steer discussion toward taking one step at a time. What is easiest to take out? What will be the hardest?)
5. What shall we do first? (Pick out large items.)
6. How can we get more dirt out? (Pour water through a strainer or colander to remove larger debris.)
7. Is the water clean? (No.) What shall we do next? (Use a strainer with finer mesh. Repeat with a coffee filter to remove dirt and sand.)
8. Is the water clean—as clean as it was to start with? (No.) If it is this difficult to clean the water, do you think it would be easy or difficult to clean false ideas out of our minds? What ideas would be easy to clean? What would be hard?
9. During our whole lives on earth we can slowly work with the Lord to clean our minds and learn what is true! Even the angels continue to do this to eternity!



Materials

4 transparent bowls (glass/plastic) of equal size; pitcher of clean water; 4-5 large, easily-removed "pollutants" to put in the water, e.g. candy wrappers, lids, sticks; smaller sized "pollutants" such as wood chips, tea, sand, soil; large spoon to stir; 2 strainers with different sized holes; 1-2 coffee filters or paper towels; spoon for stirring; water and towels to clean hands

Prepare in Advance

Organize supplies on a table. Set up a pitcher of water, four bowls, and various kinds of "pollutants" for children to add. Prepare filtering devices such as a colander, strainer and coffee filter, hide them from sight to begin with to encourage free brainstorming.

Video Demonstration

View at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-cleaning-selfish-thoughts-experiment/

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