Forgiving Hearts

Materials Needed

1 heavy weight non-shiny white paper plate, or several light weight non-shiny white paper plates per child; red watercolor paint; paintbrushes; yarn in a variety of colors; scis-sors; *Heart Template* p. 2 cut out of stiff paper; pencil; tape *optional*: hairdryer to speed time needed for paint to dry

Prepare in Advance

Gather supplies. Mix red paint to paint plates. Put the heart template on a paper plate. Draw around it, and cut the heart out of the plate. Repeat until you have a plate for each child. *Hint* If using thin plates, fold them in half and cut half a heart on the fold line.

New Church Concept
Out of Our Hearts

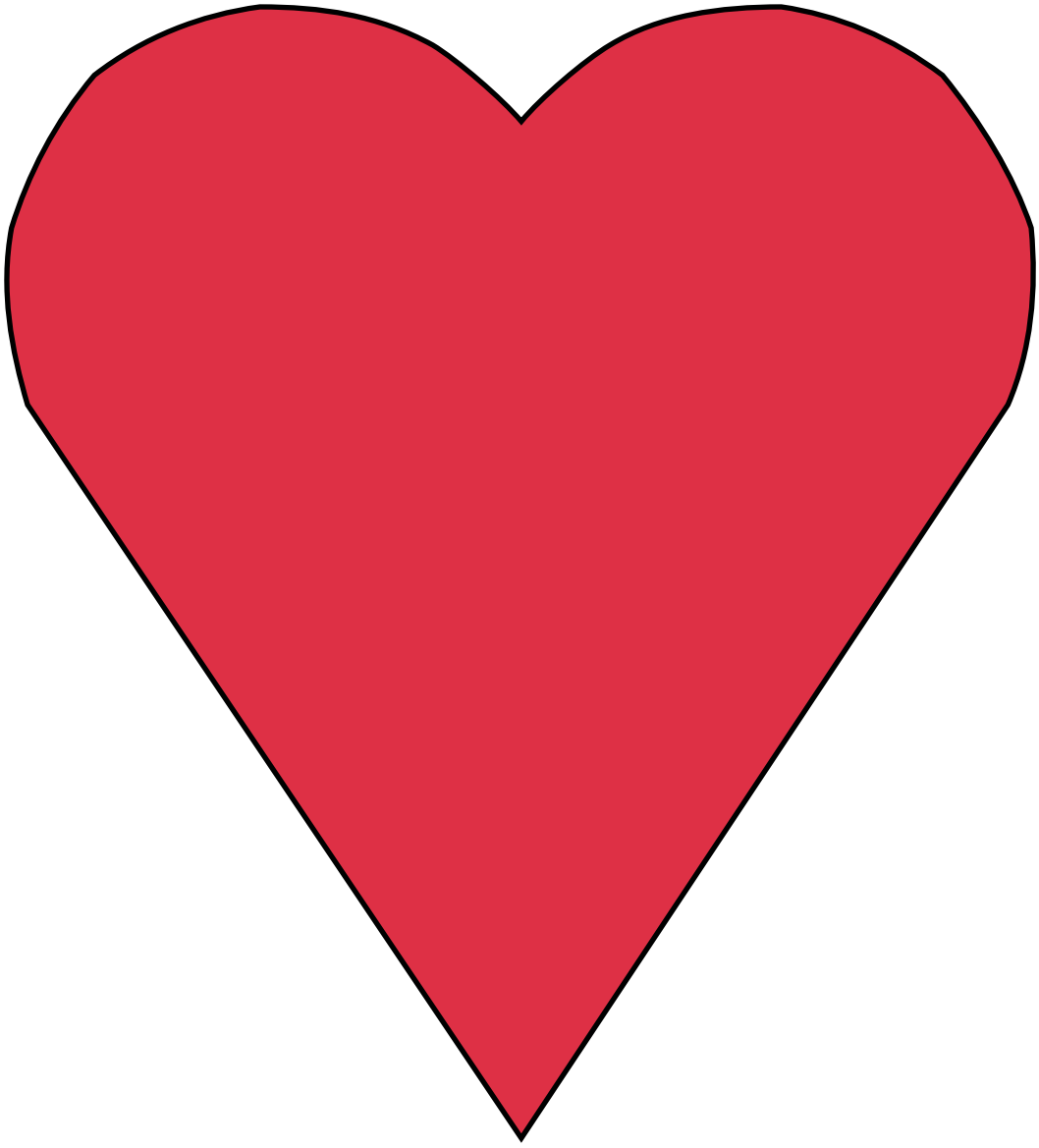
Good people out of the good treasure of their hearts bring forth what is good; evil people out of the evil treasure of their hearts bring forth what is evil. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45; Matthew 12:35) In the Word, the heart means our will, and this is the source of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



The Lord asks us to forgive others if they make mistakes. Make a loving heart that forgives others from painted paper plates and lace it with yarn.

1. Have you ever made a mistake? Often mistakes are things we don't mean to do but that happen. (Sometimes we do mean it, but then later we feel bad.) For instance, if you run fast, you might bump into someone. You might even knock someone down, so they get hurt. What could you say if you made a mistake like that?
2. Everyone makes mistakes. Making mistakes can be upsetting and embarrassing. If we make a mistake, we might feel better if the person who gets hurt says, "I forgive you." Have you ever said, "I forgive you?" Has anyone ever said, "I forgive you" to you? What does "I forgive you" mean?
3. When the Lord was on earth He told a story about a servant who owed his master lots of money. It was so much money, he could never pay it back. He and his family would become slaves. That would have been terrible, wouldn't it! But what did the Master do? He forgave the debt—the man didn't have to pay back the money he owed. He could go free. How do you think the servant felt then?
4. What did the servant do when he remembered that another servant owed him just a little money? Did he forgive the other servant? No! He said he would have to pay, or go to prison!
5. The Lord used this story to teach us how we are to forgive others. He said we should always forgive mistakes—just as He always forgives our mistakes.
6. We are going to make forgiving hearts to remind us that even though others make mistakes, the Lord wants us to forgive.
7. Hand each child a paper plate with a heart cut out of it. Invite the children to paint the plates red. Set in a warm place to dry. *Optional:* get a helper to dry the paint with a hairdryer.
8. When the plate is dry, wrap yarn around it, as shown in the picture. Secure the ends of the yarn to the back of the plate using tape.

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