

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 24
The Scribes and Pharisees (Luke 11:37-44, 53-54)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The scribes and Pharisees are examples of what not to do with our religion.
- B. The hypocrite closes the door of his heart and mind against the Lord.
- C. Our hearts are what most need cleansing.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. All our lessons this year have been about the Lord's life on earth. We've learned about many people that He could help because the people wanted to be helped.
- 2. Today we're going to learn about some people who didn't want the Lord's help. They didn't even want the Lord to help or teach anyone else! They were the ones who ended up crucifying the Lord. These people were the scribes and Pharisees.
- 3. The scribes were Jewish men who studied the law and taught other people what the laws meant. They were important, powerful men.
- 4. The Pharisees were a group of Jews who believed that following the laws of the Old Testament exactly was the most important thing in life. They claimed to be more religious than anybody else, and they expected to be looked up to by everyone because of this. They were important and powerful men, too.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud Luke 11:37-44, 53-54.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. A Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner. What did he notice that Jesus didn't do? (He didn't wash before dinner.)
- 2. What did the Lord tell him? ("You Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness.")
- 3. The Pharisees were very careful to pay their tithes to the synagogue. Do you know what tithes are? (Tithes are one-tenth of whatever you have which you pay to the church.)
- 4. What did the Lord say they had overlooked (forgotten about)? (Justice and the love of God)

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5. Why was it bad that the Pharisees loved the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces? (These things made them look and feel very important and proud. They cared more about being important than about being good and loving other people.)
6. The Lord called the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites. Do you know what a hypocrite is? (Someone who pretends to be good so people will praise and respect him, but who's really evil and selfish inside)
7. At the end of our lesson it says that the scribes and Pharisees began to assail Him, to cross-examine Him, and to lie in wait for Him so they could catch Him in something He might say. Do you know why they were so determined to find something wrong with Jesus? (They were used to having everyone look up to them and admire them for their knowledge and answers about the law. They couldn't stand to have people turning to someone else for instruction. They were losing their power over people! If they could prove that they were right and Jesus was wrong, then people would stop listening to Jesus and would come to them instead.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Most of the people couldn't read, so they didn't know what the law of the Lord really said; they just believed what the scribes and Pharisees told them. The scribes and Pharisees had added a lot of their own laws so they could keep the people under their control.
2. The scribes and Pharisees knew the Scriptures (the Old Testament), but they covered up the real meaning with their own ideas. Do you think they used their power the way the Lord wanted them to? (No)
3. The scribes and Pharisees tried very hard to appear good on the outside, but what were they like on the inside? (Bad, selfish) They were hypocrites!
4. The Lord said the Pharisees cleaned the outside of the cup and dish, but not the inside. Do you have an idea about what this means? (They acted good and "clean," but inside they were full of greed, hate, and selfishness. They were "filthy" inside.)
5. How can we clean our cups and dishes on the inside? (We can try to be kind to people because we would like them to treat us the same way; we shouldn't do good things just so people will like us and admire us, or just so we'll get rewards.)

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III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
2. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," HYMNAL #246.

B. Activities: "TITHING MINT AND RUE"

1. Demonstrate how someone could measure out one-tenth of a pinch of an herb. Take a pinch (make it a large one!), and place it on a cutting board or smooth book cover. Use something like a table knife to cut the tiny pile in half, then each half into five more or less equal parts. Show the children how ridiculous it was for the Pharisees to be unkind and unfair to other people, but to be certain they gave one-tenth of every little thing, even a bit of herbs, to the temple! Which do the children think is more important?

C. Project

1. The Pharisee's Cup and Dish
 - a. Make a simple dish and cup of construction paper. Color the insides so they look awful and dirty, but leave the outsides "clean. "
 - b. Or, instead of coloring the insides of the cup and dish, glue on "dirt" (pepper, sand, loose tea, etc.).
2. Tithing All Manner of Herbs
 - a. Materials Needed
 - Roller glue
 - Unlined white Index cards (3 X 5 or 4 X 6)
 - Colored pieces of construction paper for mounting the Index cards (a good time to use your scraps!)
 - As many different herbs and spices as your kitchen contains
 - Text slips: "For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by Justice and the love of God." (Luke 11:42)
 - b. Before Class
 - Cut construction paper pieces and mount index cards on them with rubber cement.
 - Measure out into shallow containers an appropriately small amount of each herb and spice you plan to use during class.
 - Prepare text slips.
 - c. In Class
 - Give each child a glue bottle and a mounted index card. Have them glue the text slip onto the back and write their names there before beginning work with the herbs.

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- Children put one small (emphasize small) dab of glue somewhere on the card, and sprinkle a tiny pinch of an herb or spice onto that spot. Repeat several times over the surface of the index card with different herbs until it is sufficiently herb-covered (perhaps 8 or 10 different herbs and spices). Some possibilities:

Ground Spices:

Dill weed

Oregano

Thyme

Rosemary

Paprika

Basil

Tarragon

Cayenne pepper

Chili powder

Cumin

Mustard

Whole Spices:

Glue on one peppercorn, clove, bay leaf, cardamon seed, etc.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Table knife, cutting board, and small amount of herb for activity described above.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 5, "The Scribes and Pharisees" (Luke 11), pp. 257-272.

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