

Fifth Sunday in Lent



The Children's Illustrated Bible
map on pages 180–181

Jesus was teaching at the festival before Passover. He said, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, God will honor. Even though it is difficult and my soul is troubled, should I say, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this hour that I have come. Instead, I say, ‘Father, glorify your name.’” Immediately when Jesus was done talking, a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

—John 12:23–30 adapted

Jesus Came for Us

Jesus was teaching at the festival before Passover in Bethany when he told everyone he would be leaving them soon. They all protested, but Jesus said, “Just because I have to do something hard, should I not do it? Should I pray to God to save me from what I am supposed to do?” Jesus answered his own question. No, this is why he came: to give his life so everyone can be saved. He said those who serve him must serve others also.

Share the story from John 12:23-30. Show Bethany on the map in the *The Children's Illustrated Bible* and how close it is to Jerusalem, which Jesus will enter on Palm Sunday.

Discuss: Jesus was getting close to the time when he would give his life for all people. This was a very difficult thing to do. What would be a difficult thing for you to do? Would you be able to do it if you knew God wanted you to and helped you through it? God loved Jesus very much. But he also loves us very much. Jesus died, but later, on Easter, we'll find that he was resurrected and lives forever!

Heart Washers

Kids remember David as a giant-slayer whose power came from God. But when David became king, he didn't listen to God. He wanted another man's wife and murdered him to steal her. David knew that he was in need of “a clean heart” when he wrote Psalm 51. Read this psalm and discuss: Do you ever do anything you do not feel good about? Do you ever feel like God needs to help you clean your heart?

Give each kid a plastic heart where they can write with a washable marker something they wish God would wash away. Then in tubs of water or over a sink have them scrub their heart clean. After they dry their hearts, affirm that God loves them and will always help “clean away” their hurts and mistakes. All they have to do is ask.

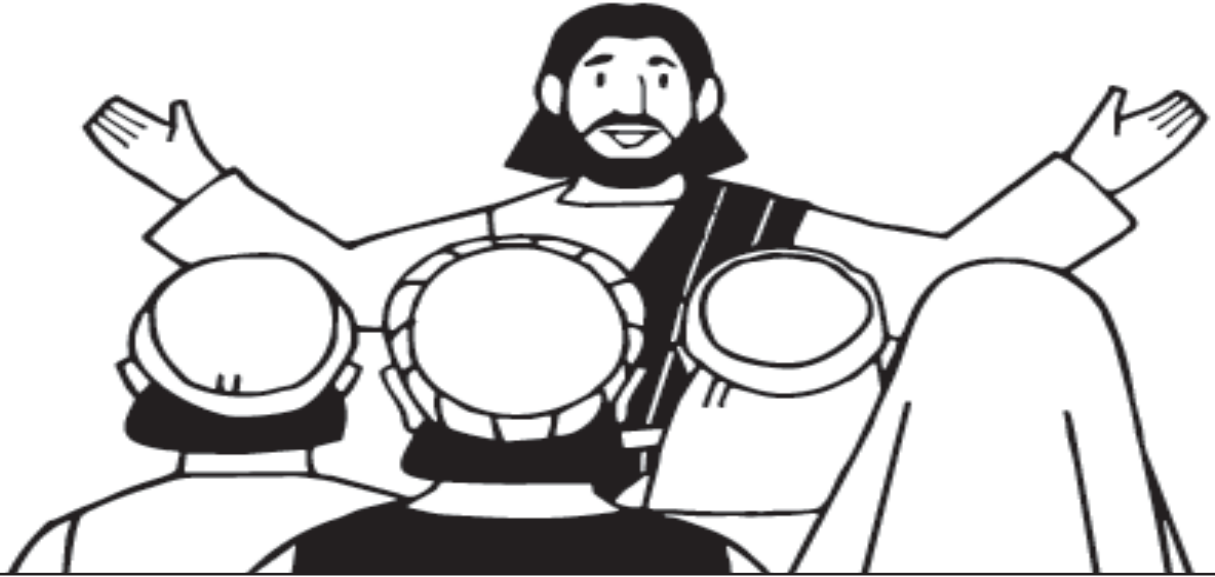


Rules to Keep

Kids can understand Jeremiah's message in Jeremiah 31:33 that someday God will make a promise that we want to keep in our hearts. Discuss: What would God's law be if you wrote it on your hearts? (Love everyone? Love God first?)

Hearts on Hearts

Distribute small paper or felt hearts to each kid with markers. Have them write what they feel God's law would be for them. String paper hearts with God's promise on it on a beaded chain or a string to create necklaces to wear over their heart (or some may wish to slide their paper heart into their shirt).



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List ways you can glorify God.