Heart to Heart

The Soft Heart

Large Group

• **Bible Summary**

  **Mark 14:32-36** Jesus, though He was so sad, went and told God, His Father, “Whatever You want I will do.” His heart was soft. We see it in His willingness to obey even though obeying was difficult. He put aside what He wanted (self-centeredness; a hard heart) to do whatever God wanted (a soft heart).

• **Bible Verse**

  “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” *Ezekiel 36:26*

• **Objectives**

  The children will come to understand that our hearts are malleable and can be shaped by God (as clay is shaped by a Potter) if we allow Him. God wants to change hard hearts to soft hearts. The children will understand that God wants our hearts to be soft. They will be able to say what having a soft heart means and will give to God areas where their hearts are hard.

• **Supplies**

  - clay, putty, bounce putty or similar
  - a rock
  - Physical Heart picture or video

**In Advance**

- Rehearse The Teaching Time
- Make sure supplies are available

---

**Unit Summary: Heart to Heart**

This curriculum includes several lessons dealing with different kinds of hearts; eg. the soft heart, forgiving heart, joyful heart. The goal of the curriculum is to teach the children about the kind of heart that is pleasing to God and then to begin to form that kind of heart within them. The lessons attempt to facilitate that growth through the teaching, activities, worksheets, application and prayer. Our prayer is that this curriculum would be very practical and that children would be changed as a result of taking this course.
Your Morning Schedule

1) **Arrive in the Kidatorium 30 minutes** before the service begins to meet the rest of your team (worship leaders and small group leaders) and pray.

2) Plan to **be ready to help greet children 15 minutes before the service begins**, welcome new children and help draw children into a fun welcoming activity.

3) Kids can stop at the **memory verse station** and earn Promiseland Bucks. (If child is new to the Promiseland, show them the verse sheets on the sign-in table and explain how they can earn Promiseland Bucks.)

4) Kids can shop at the **Promiseland Store**. (A leader should man the store.)

5) Invite kids to **play a game** with a new friend from the game cabinet.

6) Help lead a **simple craft or activity** to help welcome children.

7) Children **start in small groups 5 minutes past the service start** to meet their small group leaders. Encourage this transition.

8) **Worship begins 10 minutes into the service.** (9:10 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.) Help ensure the PreSchool classrooms are moving over at this time.

9) **25 minutes into the service, Large Group teaching should begin.** (9:25 a.m. or 11:10 a.m.)

10) Plan for your Large group teaching to be about **25 minutes in length**.

11) Release children to **Small Groups** by 9:50 a.m. or 11:35 a.m.)

12) Children will remain in Small Groups for the remainder of the service.

13) The end of the service is a great time for you to meet and chat with parents at the door, as Small Group leaders need to remain engaged with their kids until they are signed out.
Pre-Teach
(5 minutes)

Have a rock and some clay or “Bounce Putty.” Tell them the clay is like “flesh,” soft.
Discuss the qualities of clay vs. rock: eg. rock is hard, you can’t mold it, it can hurt you, the only way to change it is to break it. Clay is soft, you can mold it and make things out of it, it doesn’t hurt you, you can’t really break it. Relate these points to the heart during the lesson.

Discuss what a heart is, both the physical one and the one we refer to in these lessons. Use the picture or a youtube video to explain how the heart works, the parts of the heart, etc.
Teach
(10 minutes)

Physical heart: The heart is the most important organ in the body; it keeps us alive, keeps the blood pumping through our body so that every part can be healthy. If the heart stops, gets hard, it can’t work properly and we die.

Emotional heart: the way we feel that often determines how we act and how we approach God and other people. It keeps our spirits going, makes sure every part of our being is healthy. So we want a heart that is soft and healthy. Jesus is our example for all of our behavior. In this area of having a soft heart, we can see His soft heart, and imitate it.

Mark 14:32-36 (from The Message)
"They came to an area called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him. He plunged into a sinkhole of dreadful agony. He told them, “I feel bad enough right now to die. Stay here and keep vigil with me.”

Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out: “Papa, Father, you can—can’t you? —get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do you want?”

Jesus did want to die on the cross. He knew it was going to hurt, and be extremely more unpleasant than we can imagine. Even though He didn’t want to, He knew that it was part of God’s plan for redemption and He wanted to do His Father’s will."
Post-Teach
(10 minutes)

(Refer kids to this memory verse)

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

We may not have soft hearts, but Jesus can make your heart soft. In Small Group, you will talk about what your heart is like, and how you can have a soft heart.

[Pray and dismiss to Small Groups.]