



Crumbling Leaves & Dirty Cloth

Isaiah 64:6

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Small Paper Lunch Sack for each child
- ✓ Small plastic baggy for each child
- ✓ Square of white cloth (cut up old white bed sheet etc...) for each child
- ✓ (If you cannot go on the field trip then gather the following and assemble the kits yourself: live green leaf, colored fall leaf, dead and crumbling leaf & dirty white cloth
- ✓ Package of wet wipes, bottle of hand sanitizer and large clean towel (to clean their hands off with when they "dirty" their cloth).
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



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Objective of Lesson

The Lord gives us many examples in the scriptures of what we really are before a Holy God. This verse is one such verse. The things it talks about we can actually see with our eyes and even hold some in our hands. The objective of this lesson is to show children how the Lord describes our sinful state before Him, and shows us our need of the great physician, our great Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reference

Isaiah 64: 6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Lesson Instructions

1. I was sitting out on the porch looking at the trees and noticed that the weather is getting cooler and the leaves on the trees have started to fade and fall off its branches. It is the time of year where the leaves are turning different colors, fading, and blowing away. I ran across this scripture and thought it would be a perfect time to explore what this scripture is telling us. Can any of you read it to me? (Read the scripture) Isaiah 64: 6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and

we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

2. There are lots of words we can actually picture in our mind in this verse. The Lord is teaching us something about mankind and the sad and helpless state man is in. The Lord graciously gives us things we can actually picture and some we can even hold in our hands: one is a leaf and the other is a rag. (Have some examples already gathered) We are going to talk about these things and see if we can understand what the Lord is teaching us here. We are going to take a little field trip today and I am going to give each of you a paper sack and a piece of white cloth. Once we get outside I will tell you what to do with them. (If you are unable to take the field trip, have a sack with the items prepared for each child ready and pass them out at this point.)
3. Now that we are outside I want you all to look for a nice green leaf and put it in your sack. Now I want you to look for a fall leaf that has turned red or orange or yellow and put it in your sack. Now I want you to look for a dried up and crumbled leaf and put it in your sack. I want you to take the white cloth I have given you and I want you to mess it up. Dunk it in the mud, rub it in the dirt - mess it up so much you don't want to even touch it and come put it in this plastic baggy I am holding. (Have a plastic baggy ready for each child to put his/her cloth in...Have lots of wet wipes and towels to clean their hands off after they "dirty" their white cloth.)
4. Now we are going to go back inside the classroom and talk about what we have here...Once you get back inside have them sit at their table or sit in a circle on the floor. Have one of the children read the verse again. "Let's read our verse again - any volunteers?" Isaiah 64: 6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."
5. Who is "we" in this verse? It is all of mankind. Whatever the Lord wrote next in this verse, is He talking about only one person, or a few people, or all people? All people! It says, "But we are ALL as an unclean thing..."

6. What is an unclean thing? We certainly know when something is not clean, right? In the Bible, in the law of God given to Moses and God's chosen people, the Israelites, He told us what unclean things were. There were a few things, and one of them was a leper. Have you ever heard of a leper? A leper is a person who has rotting, horrible, smelling disease where their skin gets ugly sores all over it and finally it just rots and falls off. God is telling us, that is what we are when compared to His goodness! A good way to tell if something is good or clean is to compare it to God. Why? The reason is because only God is good and right and holy. I look pretty good to me when I look in the mirror. I took a bath; I combed my hair, but we don't see with the eyes of God. God looks on man's heart, his soul, and his spirit. After man sinned in the garden, we became like an unclean thing. WE can't see it, but what we really are inside is just like a leper. God is so good and so holy that when He looks on us he sees "wounds, and bruises and stinking oozing open sores and rotting flesh." (Psalm 28:5, Isaiah 1:6) What does this tell us? We need a savior! We NEED the great physician. Who is the great physician who can heal all manner of illnesses and even heal us of our spiritual leprosy? Jesus Christ the Son of God! Hallelujah! We have a great physician. (Matthew 9:12, Luke 5: 31, Mark 2: 17, Isaiah 53:5, Jeremiah 17:4, Matthew 4:24)
7. What else does it say in our text... Isaiah 64: 6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;" - We have an example of what a filthy rag might be in here in our bag... (NOTE: the scriptures refer to a filthy rag as either a woman's menstruation rag, the cloths or rags used to wrap and prepare a dead body, or the cloth a leper used to cover their mouth with when in public to signify they were unclean. Due to the age of the children we are going with a more general and visual aid. If the children are old enough that they could understand the concepts the scriptures specifically point to I recommend you use those more specific examples of an unclean rag as this gives the truer and more accurate picture of what the Lord is telling us here in this verse). The first word we come to

in this verse is righteousnesses. That is a big word! Do you know that means? It means all the good stuff we do - all the stuff that we do that is right and good and honest and just. All the good stuff we do is just like this! (Hold up the filthy rag). Is this verse talking about the bad stuff we do? NO, it is only talking about the GOOD stuff we do! When Adam sinned in the garden and we inherited his nature, even our good deeds corrupted. If we could see ourselves in the light of God's goodness, this is what our good deeds look like!!! If you kept God's law as best as you could, if you did your best to only do good stuff, to never get angry without a just cause, to never disobey your parents, to never lie... Your BEST efforts still look like THIS! What does this tell us? We need someone to keep God's law for us! We can't do it! We need a savior who can pay the debt for breaking God's law with our every breath! Who is our great savior who came to this earth to fulfill ALL that God requires of His people, because even their best efforts fall short and look like this? Jesus Christ the Son of God! Don't go to bed at night and think all your good deeds will save you and God will be pleased with them. Don't rest on the thought that anything you do makes you right with God. That would be like taking this dirty cloth, putting it on your pillow and laying your head on it. That is NOT going to pay for your sins! Rest in Christ! Our wonderful and powerful and perfect savior who really is right and good and honest and just and who kept God's law for us, had to die to pay for our sins! What a wonderful savior!

8. Now let's read the last of this verse... Isaiah 64: 6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Here is the last example the verse gives us. We are just like a leaf. I want you all to pull out your green leaf. We, all of us, are being compared to a leaf in this verse, but looks are deceiving. We are sinful creatures. At first, to us, we look lively and green and beautiful and perfect! Then after time due to our sin we begin to fade and die. (Pull out the fall colored leaf)... Soon the sin

causes all life to be gone and we "all do fade as a leaf" as our verse says; and finally in the end we die. (The wages of sin is death Romans 6: 23) (Pull out the dried up crumbed dead leaf). In the end, our sin dries us up, we fade like a leaf and the wind blows us away (Blow the leaf off your hand)...Wow, what a sad picture of mankind. What does this verse teach us? We need a great physician; we need a savior! This verse teaches us something very important. It teaches us who we are and why we need Jesus Christ the Son of God. What a great gift our Lord and Savior is to His people! If it weren't for Him we would be blown away and lost forever. The Bible tells us not to trust in our own works, deeds, and our own "goodness;" they are nothing but filthy rags. (Hold up the rag) Pretty soon you will fade as the leaf and your sins will crumble you and blow you away. (Hold up the leaves) Psalm 34:22 says this...Amplified Bible (AMP)22 "The Lord redeems the lives of His servants, and none of those who take refuge and trust in Him shall be condemned or held guilty." Trust in Christ!

Lesson Activities

- Field trip to gather leaves and create "dirty cloth". If you are unable to take a field trip prepare the following for each child: A Paper bag with a live green leaf, a colored fall leaf and a dead and crumbing leaf. Take a square of white cloth (cut from an old bed sheet etc...) and dunk it in the mud, make it as nasty as you can get it to where you don't want to touch it and place it in a small plastic baggie. Create one for each child.
- If you are able to have the children gather their own make sure you have plenty of wet wipes, large towel, and hand sanitizer for the children to clean their hands with after the exercise.
- Coloring Sheet of Wind Blowing Fall Leaves with the verse at the top.

Take Home Lesson Overview



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look like this? Jesus Christ the Son of God! Don't go to bed at night and think all your good deeds will save you and God will be pleased with them. Don't rest on the thought that anything you do makes you right with God. That would be like taking a dirty cloth (NOTE: the scriptures refer to a filthy rag as either a woman's menstruation rag, the cloths or rags used to wrap and prepare a dead body, or the cloth a leper used to cover their mouth with when in public to signify they were unclean. Due to the age of the children we are going with a more general and visual aid. If the children are old enough that they could understand the concepts the scriptures specifically point to I recommend you use those more specific examples of an unclean rag as this gives the truer and more accurate picture of what the Lord is telling us here in this verse). Resting is our good deeds would be like putting that filthy rag on your pillow and laying your head on it and resting on it. That is NOT going to pay for your sins! Rest in Christ! Our wonderful and powerful and perfect savior who really is right and good and honest and just and who kept God's law for us, had to die to pay for our sins! What a wonderful savior! Psalm 34:22 says this...Amplified Bible v. 22 "The Lord redeems the lives of His servants, and none of those who take refuge and trust in Him shall be condemned or held guilty." Trust in Christ!

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