



Out of the Heart

Matthew 15: 18-20

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Crayons/Markers
- ✓ Plastic water bottle filled with dirt, water and gunk.
- ✓ Plastic water bottle with dirt.
- ✓ Plastic water bottle filled with clean water.
- ✓ Plain paper bag
- ✓ Paper bag decorated with bright colors, glitter and rhinestones
- ✓ Paper bag with "Sinners Prayer" written on it.
- ✓ "Badges" printed and cut apart
- ✓ Scotch tape
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



Out of the Heart

Objective of Lesson

The objective of today's lesson is to demonstrate where sin comes from, and strive to understand what men are made of, and how God can accept sinful men such as we are.

Scripture Reference

KJV Matthew 15: 18-20 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

NIV Matthew 15: 18-20 18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.

Lesson Instructions

1. This week we celebrated Valentine's Day. One of the symbols of this holiday is the heart. Seeing hearts all around me this week made this scripture come to mind, and I felt it a good subject for today's lesson.

We are going to talk about the heart. No, we are not going to talk about this physical shape called a heart, (Hold up a heart shape) and we are not going to talk about our physical heart that is beating inside our chests that you can feel when you put your hand on your chest. Today we are going to talk about our emotional hearts. This is where all our feelings, thoughts, and actions come from. We can't see this heart but we can FEEL this heart. It is the place inside of us where everything we think and feel and want is stored. Everything we say and think and feel comes from this heart. All our thoughts that pop into our heads, (Point to your head) all of the words that come out of our mouths, (Point to your mouth) and all the work we do with our hands and feet (Point to your hands and feet) come from this ONE place - Our heart.

2. Have you ever been really excited about something? That excitement came from deep inside - from your heart. Have you ever felt mad about something? That anger came from deep inside - from your heart. Have you ever wanted something so badly that what you wanted just bubbled out of your heart and spilled over into your whole body? You talked about that want and felt that emotion of wanting and that want controlled your actions and deeds until that want was finally satisfied. ALL those feelings and thoughts and emotions come from your heart. Your HEART is who you ARE.
3. Let's read our scripture together. This scripture teaches us something VERY important that we need to learn about our hearts. Let me read it to you and then we are going to do a demonstration and talk about what this means. *NIV Matthew 15: 18-20* **18** *But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19* *For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality,*

theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.

4. There are a lot of bad, horrible, evil things that happen in this world. We can't turn on the TV news without hearing about it. Murders and evil relationships with other people, not being faithful to those you promise to love, stealing, lying and telling false stories about other people in order to hurt them and cheating to gain what you want... all those things come from our HEARTS! This scripture is telling us that THAT evil heart is inside of every one of US! Could what this scripture is saying be true? YES! Evil and sin is what we are. This teaches us where all the evil in the world comes from. It comes directly from man's corrupt heart. (Romans 3: 23, Romans 3: 10, John 3: 19)
5. Let's look at a demonstration. The Lord God is telling us that we are born with a heart that looks like this... (Hold up a bottle of nasty, dirty water.) This heart is inside every single one of us. (As you say this slip a brown paper bag over the dirty bottle of water signifying our heart inside our body) EWW! Having a heart like this causes us mighty pain and sorrow, because God does not look on you and me and see our outward appearance and the things we do when we are trying to do good. (Point to the paper bag) No, God looks deep inside a girl and a boy - past our outer covering, to our very core and sees the heart. If God sees this in your heart, (Hold up the bottle) he will have no choice but to punish you forever. (Romans 6: 23, Matthew 25: 46, Romans 5: 12, Ezekiel 18:4, James 1: 15, Psalm 145:20, Isaiah 66: 24) There will be no end to this punishment. God cannot look upon sin. Anywhere He sees sin He must and will punish it. Because there is nothing good that can come out of an evil and corrupt heart but sin, God will NOT accept any man, woman, boy or girl who has a

heart like this. Can anything good come out of this heart we have? Let's see. I am going to pour some of this water into a cup. Let's see what comes out... EWW! Nothing but dirty, mucky, gross things come out of an evil and corrupt heart. Just like this bottle of dirty water, nothing but evil can come out of it.

6. Some people tell us there are things you can do to clean up this evil heart and nature of ours. Let's talk about some of those things. Having a good heart and committing no sin is of utmost importance. Most people know God will not accept anything sinful and so they search the Bible trying to figure out how they can fix their evil, corrupt, sinful nature. Some people say, "Well if you clean up your life, quit doing bad things like lying, hating, and anger, that will make your heart clean, and the sin you have done will be wiped out by the good deeds you do. It will erase your sins; they will be gone and God will accept you."
7. Okay. Let's try that and see what happens... (Take the old bag off the bottle and replace it with the paper bag decorated in bright colors and glitter and rhinestones.) (Matthew 23: 25) Now that we have cleaned up the outside let's see what comes out of it. - (Pour the liquid from the bottle into the cup.)... EWWW!!! It looks the same!!! What? You mean cleaning up the outside and quit doing all the bad stuff doesn't change what we are? We are still full of sin? What are we going to do? God doesn't look on this outward appearance. He looks on the heart and it was just as it was before! If God sees this in you, (Hold up the bottle) He will have no choice but to punish you forever. Remember God cannot look upon sin. Anywhere He sees sin He must and will punish it. Nothing good can come out of an evil and corrupt heart but sin. God will NOT accept any man, woman, boy or girl who has a heart like this. (Matthew 23:26)

8. Some people say... "Well God WANTS to accept you and WANTS to save you, and if you just let God come into your heart he will! He is waiting and wanting to come into your heart so he can clean it up! Just open your heart and let him come in!" These people say for you to let him into your heart by repeating the sinner's prayer. Okay, let's try that and see what happens... (Take the glitter bag off of the bottle and replace it with a bag with the sinner's prayer written on it). Let's pretend this is a person with an evil heart and they were told all they needed to do was recite the sinner's prayer and God will wipe away their sin and accept them ... This is really true. People are really told this every single day! They say repeat after me... "Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. But I believe that you died upon the cross for me. That you shed your precious blood for the forgiveness of my sin. And I believe that on the third day, you arose from the dead, and went to Heaven to prepare a place for me. I accept you now as my Savior, my Lord, my God, my friend. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and set me free from my sin. And, because you are my Savior, Jesus, I shall not die, but have everlasting life. Thank you Jesus!" Okay...Now let's see what happened. Pour the water into the cup... nothing changed. It is still that same old sinful, evil, corrupt heart. (Romans 9:16)
9. OH, but we are not going to give up yet!!! There must be something we can do! I know! Some people say if you join a church and organize missions and get into the community and dedicate your life to spreading the news of what God has done for sinners, it will make you right in the eyes of God. Your sinful heart will be cleansed and you will be accepted of God! They believe you just need to surround yourself with God's work. Let's try that. (Take off the bag with the sinner's prayer and put on it the plain paper bag.) Let's see how this might work. Let's pretend this person started

teaching Sunday school lessons to children (Put the Sunday school Teacher badge on the bag), and then they started an after-school program for children to come and play and learn about the Bible till their parents get off work. (Put the after-school program badge on the bag) Here are some other things they become involved in: here is a badge for missionary work, a badge for organizing food drives for the poor, a badge for standing in front of bars and telling people how bad alcohol is, and here is program after program, organization after organization and mission after mission. They have dedicated their entire lives to what they believe is God's work. (Cover the bag with badges) Now THIS looks quite impressive. SURELY God will be pleased with this, right? I mean WOW! This person is so involved in God's work! They have dedicated all their time and effort to spreading the news about Christ and teaching people how they should act and how to clean up their lives and live for the Lord!! Let's see if THIS cleaned up this evil heart. I mean SURELY this looks good to God, right? ... (Pour the water into the cup...). That doesn't look good at all! I think it looks worse than it did when we started!!! (Matthew 7: 22)

10. We are starting to get a big picture here. So far everything WE have tried to clean up our evil hearts and cover our sin with hasn't done anything at all. We do all these things, (Lay out the bags) and if we have the same evil heart and sinful nature we have always had, (Hold up the dirty bottle) and remember if God sees this, (Hold up the bottle) He will have no choice but to punish us forever. Anywhere God sees sin He must and will punish it. God will NOT accept any man, woman, boy or girl who has a heart like this.
11. What can we do? We seemed to have tried everything mentioned in the

Bible that God says is good! Why is He not accepting us then? We did it all! How can God accept us? If you don't learn anything else today, I hope you learn this - Salvation is God's work. We don't earn it, we don't work for it, we don't decide we want it, and we certainly can't wake up one morning and try to change it and fix it. No; getting rid of our sin and getting a heart that God will accept is a work that STARTS with and ENDS with God. What God demands, God provides!!! GOD chose a people from the foundation of the world. GOD put that people in Christ. GOD sent Christ to this earth to die for His peoples' sins and GOD the Holy Spirit comes down and as a free gift He takes that old nasty heart and gives them a completely new heart. He doesn't change that old heart. He gives you a whole NEW one - the heart of Jesus Christ our Savior!
(Ezekiel 36: 26)

12. See that old heart can't be filled with good things like God's love and mercy and grace. No! Putting good things into a corrupt and dirty bottle is a waste of time. This old heart is ruined. It would be like trying to fill this bottle clean water. It just won't work. (hold up bottle with just dirt in it) God takes that old heart, shoves it completely aside and puts in its place a new heart. (Take the dirty bottle out and put in a clean bottle with clean water.) You have been given life in Christ and a new heart and a new nature have been gifted to you! (Jonah 2:9)
13. What do you see when YOU look inside? Is your heart a corrupt heart? Does the sight of the evil sin bubbling, spilling over from your heart into your thoughts and feelings and actions make you scared and tremble before God? Does the thought of forever paying for this sin and evil have you shaking before your holy maker? (Luke 10: 23) Oh, Child of God! Then blessed are your eyes, for if you see your evil heart and you know you

need a savior, RUN, RUN to the one who gives sinners NEW hearts. Christ died and bought the right to give a new heart to anybody who needs one. He gives them freely! When Christ gives you a new heart He takes that old one away! Those sins are paid for and put away! God sees that new heart, the heart given to you of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ and He says to you, "Come to me my good and faithful servant. Come dwell with me for Christ has set you free!" (Matthew 11: 28, John 6: 37) Amen.

Lesson Activities]

- Coloring Sheet
- Sinner's heart illustration - A bottle of clean water and a bottle of dirty water - put everything you can think of in this bottle of water. Make it as nasty and sticky and goopy as you can get it. Make it smell bad if you have to. No matter how awful you make it, it will still never accurately picture the filth that really flows from our hearts. Have ready three Paper Bags - one plain, one decorated with bright colors, glitter and rhinestones, and one with the sinner's prayer written on it.
- Have the activity badges cut apart and scotch tape handy to attached them to the bag at that point in the illustration

Take Home Lesson Overview



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Today we talked about our emotional hearts. This is where all our feelings, thoughts, and actions come from. We can't see this heart but we can FEEL this heart. It is the place inside of us where everything we think and feel and want is stored. Everything we say and think and feel comes from this heart. All our thoughts that pop into our heads, all of the words that come out of our mouths, and all the work we do with our hands and feet come from this ONE place - Our heart. God cannot look upon sin. Anywhere He sees sin He must and will punish it. Nothing good can come out of an evil and corrupt heart but sin. God will NOT accept any man, woman, boy or girl who has a heart like this. (Matthew 23:26)

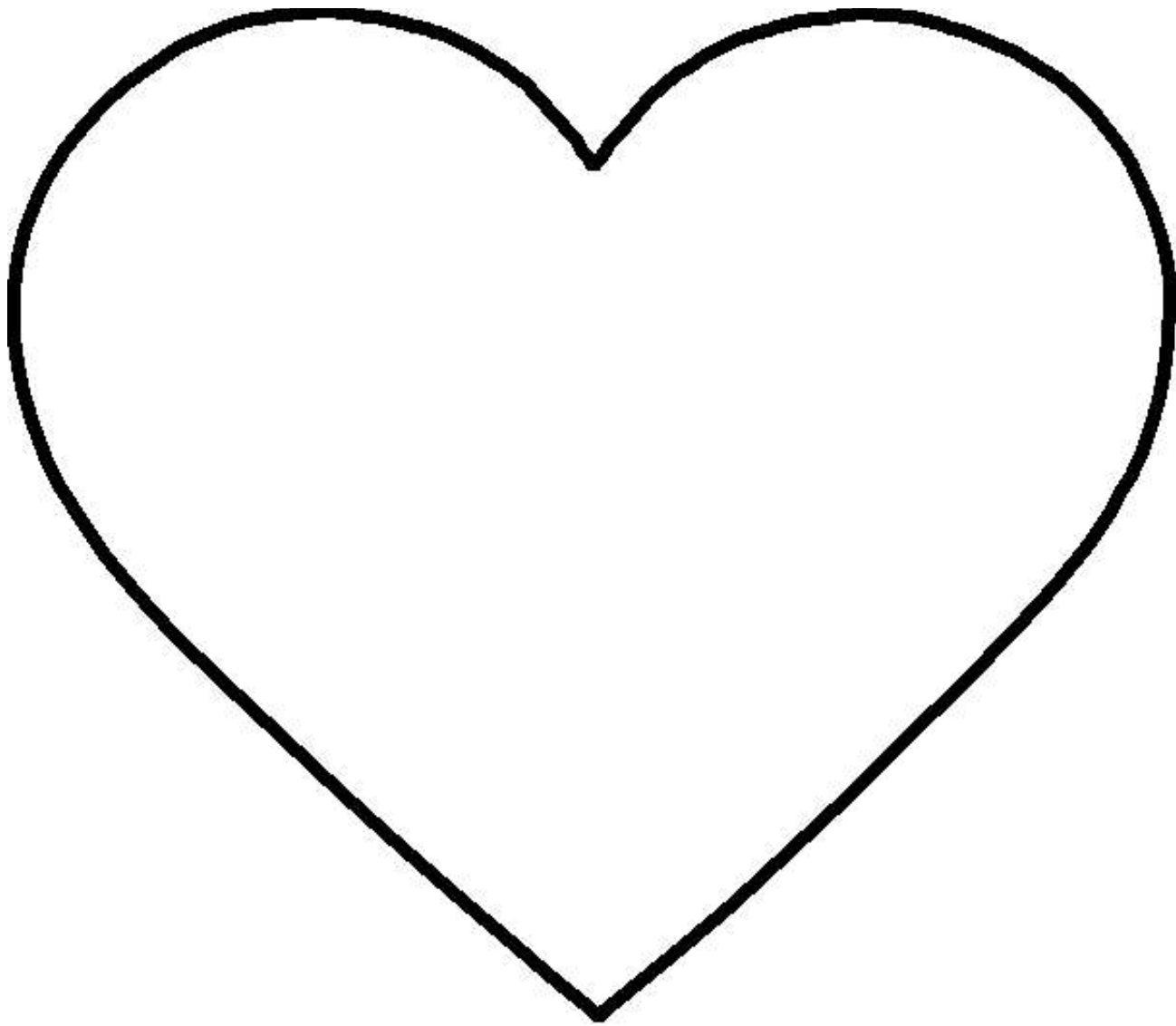
There are a lot of bad, horrible, evil things that happen in this world. We can't turn on the TV news without hearing about it. Murders and evil relationships with other people, not being faithful to those you promise to love, stealing, lying and telling false stories about other people in order to hurt them and cheating to gain what you want... all those things come from our HEARTS! This scripture is telling us that THAT evil heart is inside of every one of US! Could what this scripture is saying be true? YES! Evil and sin is what we are. This teaches us where all the evil in the world comes from. It comes directly from man's corrupt heart. (Romans 3: 23, Romans 3: 10, John 3: 19) There is nothing you can do to clean up this heart in order to make God accept and love you. Trying to act better and clean up your life, joining a church and becoming active in the ministry or repeating a sinners prayer and asking Christ to be you personal savior does not make God accept you.

Salvation is God's work. We don't earn it, we don't work for it, we don't decide we want it, and we certainly can't wake up one morning and try to change it and fix it. No; getting

rid of our sin and getting a heart that God will accept is a work that STARTS with and ENDS with God. What God demands, God provides!!! GOD chose a people from the foundation of the world. GOD put that people in Christ. GOD sent Christ to this earth to die for His peoples' sins and GOD the Holy Spirit comes down and as a free gift He takes that old nasty heart and gives them a completely new heart. He doesn't change that old heart. He gives you a whole NEW one - the heart of Jesus Christ our Savior!

There is nothing you can do to clean up this heart in order to make God accept and love you. Our old heart can't be filled with good things like God's love and mercy and grace. No! Putting good things into a corrupt and dirty heart is a waste of time. Our old heart is ruined. God takes that old heart, shoves it completely aside and puts in its place a new heart. You have been given life in Christ and a new heart and a new nature have been gifted to you! (Jonah 2:9)

What do you see when YOU look inside? Is your heart a corrupt heart? Does the sight of the evil sin bubbling, spilling over from your heart into your thoughts and feelings and actions make you scared and tremble before God? Does the thought of forever paying for this sin and evil have you shaking before your holy maker? (Luke 10: 23) Oh, Child of God! Then blessed are your eyes, for if you see your evil heart and you know you need a savior, RUN, RUN to the one who gives sinners NEW hearts. Christ died and bought the right to give a new heart to anybody who needs one. He gives them freely! When Christ gives you a new heart He takes that old one away! Those sins are paid for and put away! God sees that new heart, the heart given to you of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ and He says to you, "Come to me my good and faithful servant. Come dwell with me for Christ has set you free!" (Matthew 11: 28, John 6: 37) Amen.



Badges of Religious Activities and Missions



Children's
Ministry



Church
Fund-
Raising



College
Campus
Ministry



Join
Prayer
Team



Music
Ministry



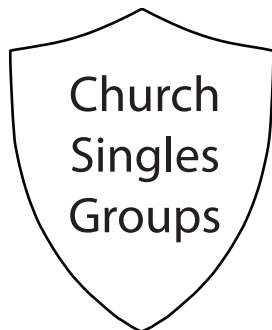
Marriage
Seminars



Community
Outreach
Ministry



Church After
School
Programs



Church
Singles
Groups



Home
Bible Study
Groups



Life
Coaching



Prayer
Partners



Bulletin
Greeter



Sidewalk
Greeter



Front Door
Greeter



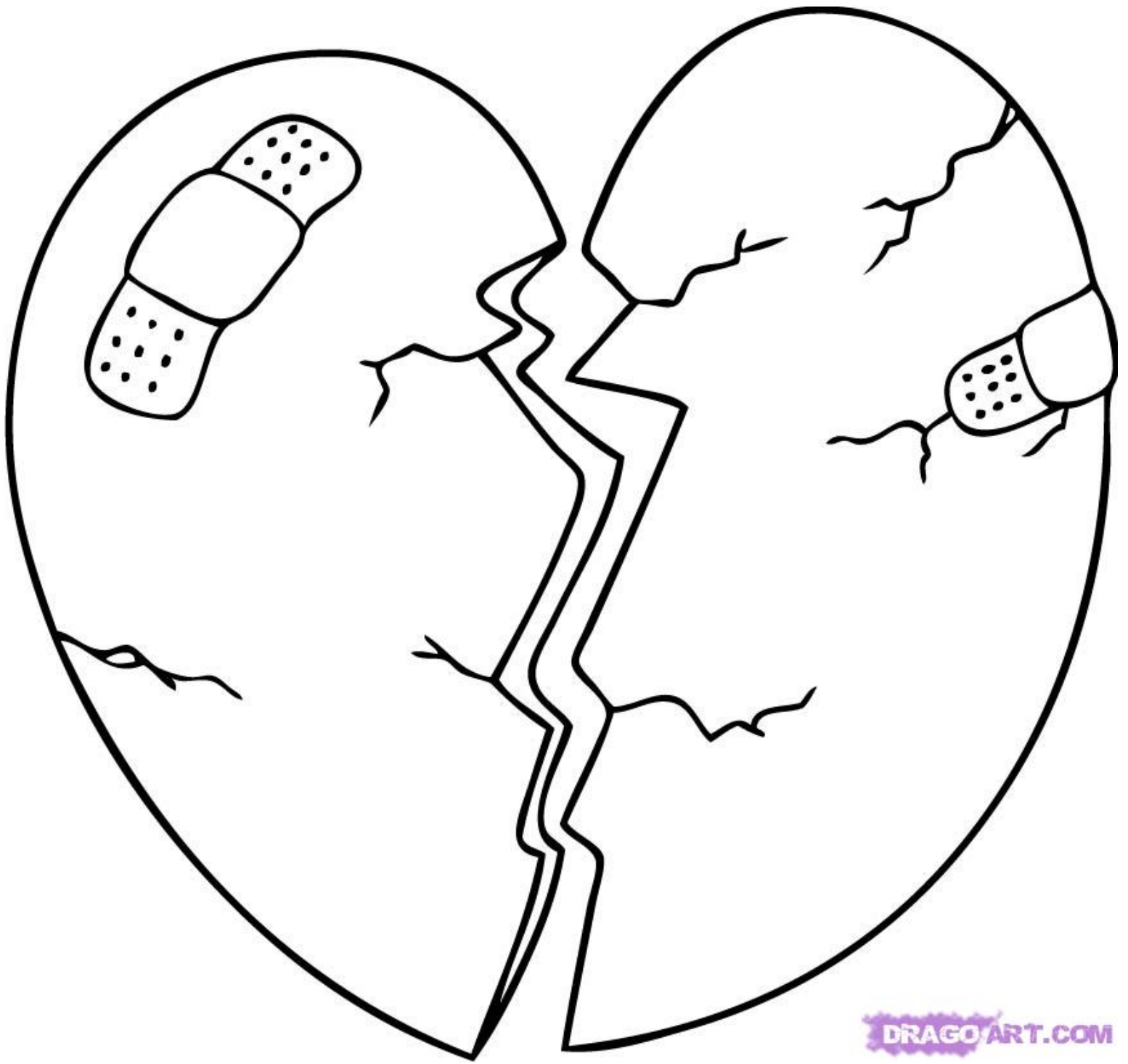
Praise
Dance

Church
Food
Bank

Jailhouse
Ministry

Church
Pre-School
& Childcare

Vacation
Bible
School



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