**A group of trees in a forest

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**Day 1**

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| **Faith Fact**  I will leave my sin behind.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone: a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: Why does Jesus want us to be rid of sin in our life?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Mark 11:15–17

In the Bible, the temple was the sacred and holy place where God would be close to His people. The temple was built of the finest materials because God deserved that. In the temple, God wanted everything to remain sacred and treated with honor. Why? God is holy, pure, and without sin, and He wanted His people to know that where they came to worship Him should be pure and clean as well.

We can understand Jesus’ anger when He saw that people were using His Father’s house as a place to buy and sell. His Father’s house was meant to be sacred and honored. Like the temple in the Bible, our heart is a place where God lives. Just like greedy people buying and selling brought “dirt” into God’s house, sin is what makes our heart dirty. But when our heart is clean and pure, we can have the kind of home that God deserves. Our heart will be clean and pure when we ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we’ve done.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What did Jesus say the temple was supposed to be?  **Answer 1.** A house of prayer for all nations (Mark 11:17) |
| **Question 2.** What does it mean that God is holy?  **Answer 2.** He is pure, clean, and without sin. |
| **Question 3.** Why was Jesus angry at the people selling doves?  **Answer 3.** They were using the temple as a marketplace. (Mark 11:16) |
| **Question 4.** How can we make our heart a more clean place for God to live?  **Answer 4.** By asking God to forgive us for the wrong things we’ve done. Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** Why does Jesus want us to be rid of sin in our life?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, You are holy and righteous. I repent of any sin in my life that is keeping me away from You. I want to be clean and pure in Your sight. Forgive me for the things I’ve done wrong against You. Thank You for Your forgiveness and help me to live for You. Amen.

**Day 2**

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| **Faith Fact**  I will leave my sin behind.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone: a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: How can we react appropriately to correction?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Mark 11:18–19

The religious leaders had heard about Jesus turning over tables and clearing out the temple. Instead of realizing that Jesus’ actions were good, they plotted to kill Jesus. When Jesus ran those selling animals for sacrifices out of the temple, most likely it cut into the money the religious leaders were getting as the ones in charge of the temple. Instead of learning, they responded with anger.

How do you react when the adults in your life correct you? Do you argue and try to explain away what you did? Or do you recognize their authority and humbly accept the loving correction they give you? When we are corrected, we have to ask forgiveness with our words, and we have to mean it in our heart. God’s correction makes us clean.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** How did the priests and religious teachers react after Jesus cleared the temple?  **Answer 1.** They plotted to kill Him. (Mark 11:18) |
| **Question 2.** Why do you think they reacted this way?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** When you are being corrected, how do you respond?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** Why should we humbly accept correction?  **Answer 4.** We should be humble so that God can make us clean. |
| **Question 5.** How can we react appropriately to correction?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, search my heart and help me to know when I have sinned against You. I’m sorry for when I’ve fallen short. Thank You for Your forgiveness. With a humble heart, I accept Your correction and guidance so I can be made clean. Amen.

**Day 3**

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| **Faith Fact**  I will leave my sin behind.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone: a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: What does our new nature look like?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Ephesians 4:21–24

You have probably seen a caterpillar crawling on a leaf. When the time is right, that caterpillar will spin a cocoon around itself. Later, it will transform into a butterfly and emerge as its new self. It won’t do the things it used to do anymore. Butterflies don’t crawl along the ground, but instead, they have wings to fly. Even its diet changes from leaves to sweet nectar. A new life calls for a new way of living for the butterfly.

The same should be true of us when Jesus enters our life. We stop some of the things that we used to do. We must let the Holy Spirit living in us work in and through us to change the way we do everything—even down to the words we say and the thoughts we think. Sin is left behind, so like a butterfly, we can soar to the new plans and purposes God has for us.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What does a butterfly do differently from a caterpillar?  **Answer 1.** A butterfly flies and eats different food. |
| **Question 2.** What are some things that are part of a person’s life before they have a relationship with Jesus?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** What causes our life to be completely changed?  **Answer 3.** Our life is changed when we accept salvation through Jesus and then the Holy Spirit lives in us. |
| **Question 4.** How do you know that the Holy Spirit is renewing your mind and attitude?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** What does our new nature look like?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for the change that You have brought to my life. I don’t have to live the way that I used to live. Now, I can live joyfully through the help of the Holy Spirit. I ask for the Holy Spirit to renew my mind and heart daily so that I can live faithfully for You. Amen.

**Day 4**

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| **Faith Fact**  I will leave my sin behind.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone: a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: Why should we remove sin to enter God’s presence?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Psalm 15

How can we enter the presence of God? He is holy, clean, and pure, so we can’t enter into His presence unless we have been washed clean on the inside. The good news is that Jesus has made the way for us to do that. When we repent and ask for forgiveness for the wrong things we’ve done, He washes us clean. Jesus washes away our sins so we can be with Him.

But that doesn’t mean we’re perfect going forward. Every day is a challenge to stay away from the sin that keeps us from Jesus. We avoid gossip and other things that don’t show love to our neighbors. We stay away from people who encourage us to sin and surround ourself with people who try to live faithfully and committed to God. When we remove sin from our life and humbly ask God to keep us clean, we can enter His presence. God's presence is the best place to be because it is full of everything He is: love, joy, peace, faith, healing, and hope.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** Who may worship in God’s sanctuary according to Psalm 15?  **Answer 1.** Answers will vary. Several answers are listed in the psalm. |
| **Question 2.** How did Jesus make a way for us to be in God’s presence?  **Answer 2.** He died on the Cross, taking our place. He forgives our sins and cleanses us. |
| **Question 3.** What is found in God’s presence?  **Answer 3.** Love, joy, peace, faith, healing, and hope |
| **Question 4.** What are some things you need to remove from your life to get closer to Jesus?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** Why should we remove sin to enter God’s presence?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your forgiveness. Search my heart and help me to live without sin before You. Your presence is where I want to be. Thank You for giving me joy, peace, love, and hope. Help me know what I need to do to be closer to You. Amen.