Rock City Church Unoffendables Curriculum

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Unit 1: Offense Lesson 1: "A Clean Heart"

RCC Unoffendables: Lesson 1 - "A Clean Heart"

Lesson Adapted from "The Bait of Satan" by John Bevere **Age:** Elementary 9-11

Lesson Topic: "A Clean Heart"					
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES NEEDED	PREPARATION OVERVIEW		
1 Getting Started	Introduction/Ice Breaker: (about 15 mins.) CIRCLES" GAME Children answer questions related to the heart.	Circle stickers/labels in four colors: red, yellow. blue, green	Distribute the 4 stickers colors evenly to the class.		
2 Bible Exploration. Key Verse Activity.	Rey Verse: 1 PETER 1:6–7 Bible Story: "A Clean Heart" Learn and explore the key verse. Bible Activity: "Act it Out" Children collaborate and create skits to present to their class, based on the lesson. Make and Take: "The Forgiving Heart"	Supplies Needed: heart templates paper clips glue post-its/ paper squares scissors glue	Teacher prints worksheets and gathers supplies.		
	Daily Challenges: Choose a daily challenge to apply God's word.		Children can choose a daily challenges for the coming week.		
4	Prayer Points: Students read the "call to				

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Lasting Impressions	action", and pray.	
	Faith at Home: Talk about how to share what they learned with their	What parents can do at home: Take your craft home,
	families.	and use it this week to help you forgive someone who has upset you

Lesson Topic: A Clean Heart

Lesson Background/Foundation for Teachers:

The Mirriam-Webster dictionary defines offense as an "annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one's standards or principles." Today, we will explore how to forgive offenses, develop a clean heart, and refuse to stay mad or offended.

Introduction Activity: Circles Game

Children sit on the floor and each gets a sticker for the palm of their hand (red, yellow, blue, or green.) Taking turns, the children answer a question about themselves, based on the color sticker they have on their hand.

Red - Tell a story about a time they had to forgive someone.

Yellow - Tell a story about a time they helped someone in need.

Blue- Tell a story about a time they prayed and their prayer was answered.

Green - Tell about a Bible character who forgave others.

Praise & Worship:

- Song 1: "Do it Again" Elevation Worship
- Song 2: "The River" Jordan Feliz
- Song 3: "My Savior, My God" Aaron Shust

Kev Verse:

1 PETER 1:6–7 "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Bible Story - "A Clean Heart"

- Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 1: 6-7
- Narrative of Story: Being mistreated does not give us an excuse to hold on to an offense. Two "wrongs" do not make a "right". In fact, in order to follow God, we have to let go of these "debts. In 1 Peter 1, the Apostle Paul reminds us that there is a purpose for the distresses in our lives, and that forgiving an offense brings great joy and secures our inheritance in heaven.

Proverbs 19:11 "Insightful people restrain their anger; their Glory is to ignore an offense." (CEB)

Bible Activity - "Act it Out"

Children will break up in several groups, create their own skits, based on the key scripture. Each group will create a skit that depicts a character that was offended, how they were able to overcome the offense, and how in increased their faith in God.

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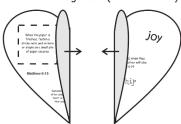
Afterwards, each skit will be reviewed and discussed by the remaining groups, according to the following questions.

- 1 Describe the difficult situation the main character faced.
- 2 Did the main character truly forgive the offense? How can you tell?

Craft/Make & Take

• **Title:** <u>"The Forgiving Heart"</u> (from Truthforkids.com)

Fold the hearts in half and glue the two halves together (back-to-back)





Supplies Needed:

- heart templates
- paper clips
- glue
- post-its/ paper squares
- scissors
- glue

• Directions:

- cut our both hearts (1 & 2)
- fold hearts in half
- glue together as shown (see craft)
- decorate the heart
- staple on paper squares, or, glue on a thin pile of sticky notes

Game/Object Lesson:

- **Title:** Hard Heart or Soft Heart" (from "The Giant Book of Games for Children's Ministry"/ Childrensministry.com")
- **Supplies Needed:** Frozen piece of bubble gum for each student.
- **Directions:** Read John 3:11-12. Give each child a frozen piece of bubble gum. Then, as the kids try to soften it in their mouths, say, "when your cold heart" gets warm enough, race to blow the first bubble. After the kids have blown bubbles, ask:
 - What did you have to have to do to successfully blow a bubble?
 - How was your cold gum like a cold heart?

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- What things might be difficult to do if your heart is cold?
- What do we have to do to keep our hearts from becoming cold and hateful?

Closing Activity & Prayer:

- Call to Action: Today, we learned that God wants us to walk in the freedom that comes from forgiving people when they offend you. Forgiveness leads to a clean heart, and increases our faith in God.
- **Prayer:** Dear God, Dear Lord, I thank You for the power of forgiveness, and I choose to forgive those who have hurt me, just as God has forgiven me for the things I have done wrong. Help me bless those who have hurt me [Romans 12:14]. Help me walk in righteousness, peace, and joy, demonstrating Your life here on earth. I choose to be kind and compassionate, forgiving others, just as You forgave me [Ephesians 4:32]. In Jesus' name, amen.

Daily Challenges:

Children can choose from the following daily challenges for the coming week:

- Recite the key points of the lesson to parents or friend.
- Pray and ask God every day to help you forgive offenses, and to have a clean heart.
- Pray for someone who has mistreated you in the past.

Faith at Home:

Take your craft home, and use it this week to help you forgive someone who has upset you. Write down what made you upset, or just write a word or a name. lWrite how the person's actions made you feel. Ask God to help you forgive the person. lTear out the page you have written on as a sign that you have forgiven the person. If you have the opportunity, talk to the person who hurt you, let them know that you have forgiven them. Share the experience with your class next week.

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