



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Spring Cleaning  
Spring Year 1, Lesson 57

# Wash Away Prejudice

**Take Home Point:** \*Wash away prejudice. Accept others who are different. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Colossians 3:11-13; Luke 10:25-37

**Key Verse:** Colossians 3:12-13, "As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive each other... as the Lord forgave you."

**We will help kids know:**

- Prejudice is judging or disliking people because they are different in skin color, speech, appearance or customs.
- The power to stop prejudice comes from how God has treated us. He has no prejudice and accepts us with his forgiveness.
- Acceptance is understanding, appreciating, and defending people who are different.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Convicted about times they have acted out in prejudicial ways towards others.
- Empathy for those who are victims of prejudice.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify ways people express prejudice in their worlds.
- Play a game that points out how ridiculous prejudice is.
- Participate in a learning activity to wash off words of prejudice and create a window of acceptance.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids describe groups of people who are typical victims of prejudice and the ways people show those attitudes toward them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• window magic markers or water-based markers</li> <li>• access to a window or a laminated white plastic surface</li> <li>• damp towel</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  10	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Game:</b> Stanley Steamer, the Spring Cleaner, will lead kids in a game to exploit their differences.  <b>Interactive Story:</b> The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37.  Kids learn that we can accept others because God accepts us as we are. God has forgiven us and washed away our sins through Jesus' death for us on the cross.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaning costume: jeans, sweats, bandana or sweat band</li> <li>• two beach balls to be named "Prejudice Balls"</li> <li>• masking tape dividing line across the center of the room</li> <li>• wash bucket with a cross on it filled with warm, soapy water and a rag</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Kids ask God to wipe them clean of sin as they take wet wipes to clean their own dirty index finger representing prejudice against another person or group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wet wipes for each student</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help quests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**As kids gather:** Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring their Bible, and bringing a guest

**Supplies:** Water-base markers or specialized window markers from Crayola, white plastic writing surface (blank overhead projector transparency sheets, laminated poster board, vinyl three-ring binder sheet protectors, or plastic cling wrap spread around a section of white poster board.)

If your room has windows, use that as your writing surface. Have a wet towel handy so kids don't have to lick their fingers or wet them to wipe the surface clean.

Say:

**Prejudice is disliking or judging another person because they are different. Some ways people are different include skin color, intelligence, athletic ability, language, habits, or appearance.**

**Describe a kid or group of kids in your school that others show prejudice towards. What ways do people show their prejudices?**

As kids tell their stories, have them (or the shepherd) write some of the actions of prejudice on the window or plastic with the special markers.

**What group of people from our community may be victims of prejudice? What ways do people show their prejudices against them?**

Discuss and continue writing those ideas on the selected surface.

Now, have kids try to clean the words describing prejudices from the plastic or glass surface with their index fingertip. Produce the handy wet towel to moisten fingers for this task.

Don't let kids clean the resulting smudge off their fingertip. It will be used at the end as part of the teaching point.

Have kids look at their fingertip and say:

**When prejudice is expressed, it's like pointing a dirty finger at someone else. But the problem isn't with someone else, the problem is within each of us. Today we will learn to *\*wash away prejudice and accept others who are different.***

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Teaching Point:** Stanley Steamer, the Spring Cleaner, will lead kids in a game to exploit their differences.

**Interactive Story:** The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37. Kids learn that we can accept others because God accepts us as we are. God has forgiven us and washed away our sins through Jesus' death for us on the cross.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?/Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**How is the Samaritan in Luke 10 like Jesus?** *(He forgave the Jew and helped him even though as a nation, Jews were prejudiced against him. Jesus forgives us even though we have sinned against him. It cost the Samaritan to save the man from death. It cost Jesus his life to save us from eternal death.)*

**Why are we prejudiced against some people?** *(They may act or look different. We might think we are better than them for some reason. We may be afraid of them or feel uncomfortable about the way they live or the customs they have.)*

**Why is this wrong?** *(God accepts us for who we are. He loves all people the same, so we should, too.)*

**How should we treat people that live in sin?** *(We should love the person who sins while not accepting the act of sin. Examples would include sexual promiscuity or sins of abuse such as drugs or alcohol.)*

**How can you do this?** *(We don't call these people names but admit that we think the action is wrong. Be understanding that these people may have spiritual wounds.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

The key verse for today from Colossians 3:12-13 says, *“As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive each other.... as the Lord forgave you.”*

**Who are we according to this verse?** *(Chosen and loved.)* **Why should we forgive others?** *(Because he forgave us.)*

**How else should we treat other people?** *(Be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient.)* **Does this mean we should be kind, sympathetic, and humble to only those people we choose?**

### Application Activity:

*Supplies: wet baby wipes (one for each child) or wet paper towels*

It is important to recognize that many times, people can't help what it is that makes them different. Those people are well aware of their differences, flaws and weaknesses and wish they could change certain things about themselves. Other times people love the ways they are different. We shouldn't point a finger at them just because they are different from us.

When we catch ourselves being prejudiced or unkind to another, we must ask God to wipe us clean of that sin.

Let's take turns telling God that we're sorry about any comments we've said or things we've done against another person or group.

Pass out one wet baby wipe for each child. Have them use the wipe to clean their dirty index finger. Then say:

We need to ask God to help us look at our own flaws instead of others' because there really is only one perfect person. Jesus Christ came to earth and lived a perfect life to save us from our imperfect lives.

Now, hold up your clean pointer finger and point it straight up to God. Because of what Jesus did for us, we are all clean.

**What are words that we can say to others that show acceptance?  
Think of the people that others in your school are prejudiced against.  
How can you show them acceptance?**

Have kids share some ideas. Conclude by restating the take home point:

**Let's begin today to *\*wash away prejudice and accept others who are different.***

Closing prayer:

Pray and intercede for target groups, not just for groups in schools or in the city where kids live, but around the world, and for those who are hurt by others who harbor prejudicial attitudes. Especially pray that the Christian Church be defenders of those who are downtrodden and victims of discrimination.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

*The presenter for this series will dress for spring-cleaning. This person's name is either Shirley Mclean or Stanley Steamer, the Spring Cleaner. They could be dressed in jeans or sweats with t-shirts. Maybe wear a bandana or sweatband. Add any props that might enhance "Spring Cleaning," for example: spray bottles, rags, and dusters.*

*Each week of this series a different cleaning item will be used.*

*Week one: a broom and dustpan*

*Week two: a duster*

*Week three: a trash can*

*Week four: a wash bucket*

*The emphasis of this series is to find the power in Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection and replace the traits of our sinful nature such as self-centeredness, disobedience, disrespect, and prejudice with service, obedience, respect, and acceptance.*

*Supplies:*

- *two beach balls to be named, "Prejudice Balls"*
- *masking tape dividing line (on floor) across the center of the room*
- *wash bucket with a cross on it filled with warm, soapy water and a rag*
- *water-based marker*

## Introduction of Presenter and Play a "Wash Away Prejudice" Game

Stanley Steamer, the Spring Cleaner, or Shirley McLean comes forward dressed in proper cleaning attire.

**Hello everyone, my name is Stanley Steamer, the Spring Cleaner, (or Shirley McLean, if a woman). I am an expert cleaner. I don't just clean stuff on the outside, I'm also interested in cleaning the dirt on the inside. Before we clean today, I believe that we should play a game. The game is about how different all of you are from one another because...my-oh-my, looking at you now...I can't help but to notice how different you all really are!**

## Round One – Physical Differences

**I can't help but to notice how you all have different color eyes. I see that some of you have brown eyes and there are blue eyes in the room, too... My, my, my.**

**Let's have all of you with brown eyes (light or dark) gather on this side of the line.**

Point to one side of the tape dividing line. Then pointing to the other side, say:

**Now, I'd like all of you with blue eyes on this side of the line.**

**Finally, those of you with green, hazel, yellow, pink or purple eyes stand around the outside of the boundary to watch your classmates in action.**

**Everyone in the middle of the room should sit in rows behind the divider line facing someone from the other side of the line. Now pretend that your color of eyes makes you a better person than the guy or gal on the other side.**

**As a matter of fact, I bet there are probably some really pretty nasty things that the brown-eyed people can say about the blue-eyed people. And there may be nasty things that the blue-eyed people can say about the brown-eyed people.**

**Just to get us started, I'm going to join up with these good sisters and brothers on this side of the line since I'm blue-eyed (*or brown-eyed*).**

Go to the appropriate side, sit down on the line facing a child on the other side and look into his/her eyes.

**Hmmm. I'm looking into your eyes and do you know what? I think that all brown (*blue*) eyed people are dirty people who never clean between their toes. Yuck! I'm glad I have blue (*brown*) eyes!**

**I wonder what you people on the other side might say about the group of people on my side? Don't answer that yet. Listen to how the game works.**

Have an assistant toss you a beach ball and hold it up.

**We are going to bat this beach ball back and forth from one side to the other. If you catch it on your side, you need to stand and say, "Blue (or brown) eyed people always \_\_\_\_\_."**

**Or you could say, "All blue-eyed people \_\_\_\_\_." You must use the words "all" or "always" to refer to all of the other group and then insert an original unkind statement into the blank. That's because when we are prejudiced against a type of person, we categorize all that have that trait together.**



Point out that the assistant has another beach ball and a marker to write down (directly on beach ball number two) some of the insults overheard during the game. Knock the first ball to the other side and let whoever catches it, stand and say something about the other eyed people using the words “all” or “always.” Hit the ball back and forth to exchange insults for a time.

When this round is over. Have kids remix themselves in the middle of the room, sit down and listen to the groupings for round two.

**Note:** *It seems strange that we’re asking kids to insult one another with prejudicial comments. That is a deplorable activity. However, it is part of having the kids learn to think on their feet and be able to respond and experience the reality of what it feels like to be a target of unkind and hurtful comments.*

### Round Two – Ability (Tongue rollers)

**There are two types of people in the world. Tongue rollers and flat-tongued people. Tongue rollers can do this...**

Demonstrate how it looks to make a circle with the tongue by curling up the sides.

**Flat-tongued people can’t do this.**

**Let’s have the tongue rollers on this side of the line** (point to a side) **and all the flat-tongued people on the other side.**

Continue with the game. Toss the ball back and forth while the tongue rollers and flat-tongued people hurl insults at each other. When the round is over, have kids remix in the center of the room. Then describe round three.

### Round Three - Culture (Birthplace)

**Now everyone knows that the best citizens in our great state of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your state name) were actually born here. So, divide yourselves into two groups. Those born instate, please move to this side of the line.** (Motion towards a specific side.) **Those born out of state, move to the other side of the line.**

**Continue the game in the same manner. Instate people - what do you have to say about those strange classmates who were born in another state? Remember to use the word “all” or “always” in your insults.**

Teaching Point: Jesus' acceptance washes away prejudice.

**Colossians 3:13 says, “Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”**

**Forgiveness means that God has forgiven us and washed away our sins through what Jesus has done for us on the cross. He accepted us even though he had every right to be prejudiced against us. After all, we were his enemies because of sin. He made us and even more than that. He made us his children through Jesus' death on the cross. Because of that, he wants to do this...**

Take the wet rag and wipe off the insults written on beach ball number two while quoting the scripture verse.

***“Forgive as Jesus has forgiven you. Put up with each other, forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Vs. 13)***

***“Where this happens, there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, uncivilized person, slave, or free person. Instead, Christ is everything and in everything.” (Vs. 11)***

**Maybe we could also say that, when this happens, there are no brown-eyed, blue-eyed, rolled-tongue or flat-tongued, instate or out of state people because Christ is everything and in everything.**

Teaching Story – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

**Jesus tells a story about how not to be prejudiced.**

**In Jesus' day, the Jews were very prejudiced against the Samaritans. If a Jew walked down the street and a Samaritan approached from the opposite direction, a Jew would often cross the street to avoid being near him. If he touched a Samaritan, he considered himself unclean. In today's language, it might sound like this: “Ewww, yuck - a Samaritan!”**

**Pretend that you are the Jews listening to this story that Jesus told. Every time you hear the word “Samaritan” say, “Ewww yuck, a Samaritan!”**

To further involve the audience, students from the audience can act out the different characters: a priest, Levite, a Samaritan or the person who was robbed. Give actors a sign or headdress to designate their character.

*Leader:*

**A lawyer came to Jesus and asked him a question. “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus told him this story. We know it as the story of the Good Samaritan.**

*Kids:*

***Ewww, yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*

**One day a man traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, robbers attacked him, stole his money, took his clothes, beat him, and left him for dead. Soon, a Jewish religious leader, or priest, passed by. Although he saw the man, he did not stop to help.**

**Next, a Levite came by. He, too, saw the wounded man but did not stop to help and left the man to die.**

**Finally, a traveler came along who was a Samaritan.**

*Kids:*

***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*

**When he saw the suffering man, the Samaritan...**

*Kids:*

***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*

**...stopped his mule, climbed down and went over to the injured man. The injured man was a Jew. But this traveler was a Samaritan.**

*Kids:*

***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*

**Would this person help? Especially since Jews hated Samaritans?**

*Kids:*

***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*

**First he poured oil on the man’s wounds. He bandaged them, lifted the man onto his mule and took him to an inn where he cared for the man. The next day the Samaritan...**

*Kids:*  
***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*  
... had to continue on his journey. But he promised to pay the innkeeper any amount of money necessary to help the man recover. Nobody can argue that this man is generous even though he is a Samaritan.

*Kids:*  
***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

*Leader:*  
So Jesus asked the people, "Which was the neighbor? The priest? The Levite? Or was it the Samaritan?"

*Kids:*  
***Ewww yuck - a Samaritan!***

As you can tell, the Samaritan is the one who showed understanding and acceptance. He even helped and defended the person who was prejudiced against him. This is how we can deal with people who are different than us. The ball that we hit back and forth at each other should never be the prejudice ball, but instead, the acceptance ball. Here's a verse to describe that concept.

***Colossians 3:12 says "As holy people whom God has chosen and loved; be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient."***

When we go into our small groups today, we will think about how we can wash away prejudice in our lives and instead, give people the acceptance that God has given us.

Hold up the beach ball and wipe it off again with the rag from the bucket of warm soapy water.

Conclude with the following prayer:

**Heavenly Father, thank you for accepting us when you had every right to be prejudiced against us. Thank you for the gift of Jesus and his forgiveness that washes us from any way we have mistreated or thought less of people who are different from us. Show us when we hold these attitudes in our hearts so that we can have them washed away with your forgiveness and be freed to better accept others. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**