

Katie



## MATTHEW 15 THAT WHICH DEFILES

**Scripture:** Matthew 15:1-11, 17-20

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Clear tote of a size you can hold, cheetos, soda, lemonade, pretzels, laundry baskets (or trash bins of some sort), gym-style scooters (or wooden boards on castor wheels), balloons with specific words written on them, helmets

**Ask:**

Who likes to wash their hands? (Allow for hands to raise)

What is the grossest thing you've ever eaten? (Allow for answers)

What do you think these questions have to do with the Bible?

**Explain:**

Today, we're going to read about something that might seem a little hard to understand because we don't live in Israel during the time that Jesus walked the earth. So we have to do a little background digging.

Did you know that the Jewish people (or the Israelites) weren't allowed to eat certain foods? They had a lot of laws that God gave them telling them what they could and could not eat. For example, they weren't and still aren't supposed to eat any pork or meat that comes from a pig. No bacon! They also had rules about cleansing and cleaning that was given to the Priests. But by the time that Jesus walked the earth, the laws for the priests had been forced on the people. The priests were supposed to clean their hands before a sacrifice, but when Jesus walked the earth, the Pharisees were telling everyone that they must wash their hands before every meal to act as though every meal was sacrificed to God. Now, it isn't wrong to wash your hands. Don't go home and tell you mom and dad that Jesus said we don't have to wash our hands. He does say that, but he means that this way of washing doesn't make us pure. Cleaning the outside doesn't make the inside clean.

**Visual:**

Maybe think of it this way (reenact this with a clear tote that is to be our example "car:") (To get kids moving, consider allowing them to add the "ingredients.")

Pretend you're in a car. While riding, you drop a bag of Cheetos in it (drop in some cheetos). Then you start stomping you feet to the music and grind them into the carpet (Crush the rest and add them)

Then, you have a gatorade or a soda, but the car stops quickly, and it flies out of your hand (Spill the drink into the tote).

Your baby brother or sister wasn't potty trained and they had an accident in the seat (pour lemonade).

A mouse has a nest in a storage compartment (crumble pretzels to look like a nest)

And there is a bug infestation in your car (add toy bugs or paper bugs cut out).

Can anyone think of any other messes you've made in a car? Let's pretend to add them to our mess.

Okay, so after all this, what if your parents decide they really need to clean the car. So they take it to a car wash (take the tote with the lid on to the sink and wash the outside or wipe with a wet rag).

Will that solve the problem? No, a car wash can only clean the outside, not the inside. That's the idea Jesus is trying to give. Let's see what he says.

**Read:** Matthew 15:1-11

**Explain:**

For added commentary on this: Corban was a law where a person would dedicate their money to the Temple. If, however, their parents became in need, the Pharisees would tell the person that they couldn't have their money back because it had been given to the Temple under vow. Jesus is saying that they are making their human vows more important than God's laws, which is wrong.

**Read:** Matthew 15:17-20

**Ask:**

So what is it that makes a person unclean? (The things in their heart, their thoughts, the words that come out of their mouths)

We are messy. Our hearts aren't always kind. Our words aren't always helpful. We make a lot of messes with the things we think and say. Nothing we can do can clean that. That is why Jesus came. He died on the cross to forgive us of our sins and make us clean. Once we know him, we should try to live as he lived. We will never be perfect, but we should ask God to help us with our words and to clean up our hearts.

### Play a Game:

This will be the game of Hungry Human Hippos (if you want, you can find an example on YouTube to better understand).

The kids will have helmets, scooters, and laundry baskets. With their team, one will lay on the scooter holding the laundry basket. Their team will push and pull their legs to help them grab balloons. On each balloon something will be written. It will either be a food that doesn't defile or a sin that does. Have the kids catch whatever balloons they can.

After all balloons are collected, have them read through their balloons and decide which defile and which do not. Throw back into the middle the foods which defile.

The team who caught the most food that doesn't defile, wins

### Balloon Words:

**Defile:** gossip, lying, cheating, stealing, murder, envy, slander, complaining, arguing, malice

**Do Not Defile:** Bacon, shellfish, shrimp, lobster, pork, horses, rabbits, lizards, eagles, vultures

**Memorize:** Matthew 15:11



**Hungry Human Hippos**