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Washed Clean

Teaching Goal:

We need Jesus to wash away our sins.

Scripture:

Jeremiah 2:22 Although you wash yourself with soda and use an abundance of soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me," declares the Sovereign Lord.

Hebrews 1:3 After {Jesus} had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

I John 1:7 And the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Materials:

Old white shirt with pocket
Black permanent marker
A family show or movie.

I. Play theme song.**II. Pray.****III. Review last lesson.****IV. Lesson and discussion:**

© Words that are written in bold are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY: Come to the start of Family Time with an uncapped permanent marker or open fountain pen in your white shirt pocket. Make sure there is a large visible stain. Act as if you do not know the pen is leaking and carry on a normal conversation. (CAUTION: Be aware that the ink will bleed onto anything else it touches like an undershirt or skin!)

Eventually, someone will notice the leaking pen. **Oh no! I may have ruined my shirt. I better wash it right away.** Make a point to wash the shirt several times. Start by using water and soap at the kitchen sink. It will help the lesson if you actually make the stain worse.

I'm going to have to put it through the washing machine. Use soap and not bleach. (You do not want to get the stain all the way out. Start the wash. **I was wearing a very old white shirt and I actually stained it on purpose. See if you can figure out the lesson from the following two verses.** Invite a volunteer to read Jeremiah 2:22. **God is talking through the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel about their sin. How is this verse similar to my trying to wash the stain out of my shirt?** *Listen to answers. I cannot get rid of the stain by my own efforts. I made the stain worse. It's the same with sin. When we sin—doing something God tells us not to do—we have a stain on our life. We are no longer pure and holy. And, by our own efforts, we cannot become pure and holy again.*

Invite a volunteer to read Hebrew 1:3. **Only Jesus can take away our sins.**

Invite a volunteer to read 1 John 1:7. **How does Jesus take away our sin? Through His dying on the cross. When we believe in Jesus and do what He says, He cleanses us from sin. He makes us pure and holy.**

While the shirt finishes washing, we are going to watch a show together as a family. When the show is over or the shirt is washed you can finish the activity with one of the following two options:

1. Use scissors to cut out the remaining sin. **The scissors represent Jesus who takes away the stain of sin that we could not wash away by ourselves. The hole that remains represents the consequence of sin. Jesus takes away the sin yet we will still need to deal with the consequences of our bad choices.**
2. If you know for sure that pure bleach or some other cleaner will take the permanent marker stain out then wash it again using the stain remover. After the stain is gone you can say: **The stain remover represents Jesus and He can do what we could not do by ourselves.** If you pull out the shirt and still see a stain then use the scissor option.

V. Memorize:

When Jesus comes in,
He removes the stain of sin.

VI. Close in prayer.

VII. Pass it On.

Pray and ask God to bring to your mind another family that would benefit from this activity. Make an extra copy of this lesson and pass it on. You may also know a children's minister who would like to share this lesson with other families.

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