

## Clean Pennies Object Lesson

### Romans 8:1-6

#### Materials:

- White Vinegar (4 tbsp per bowl)
- Measuring Spoons
- Table Salt (1 tsp per bowl)
- Clear Bowls (2)
- Dirty Pennies (1 per kid & 2 for lesson)
- Paper Towels
- Disposable Gloves

#### Instructions:

1. *Before Class:* Mix the vinegar/salt solution in the clear glasses and set aside where the kids will not get into it. Clean 1 penny for the lesson.
2. Give each child a dirty penny (the more discolored and gross—the better).
3. Hold up an old penny and say, “these pennies are just like us, messed up and in need of help to be like new. The only way we can be new is with God's help.”
4. Pull out the cup with the vinegar/salt mixture and say, “God is like this liquid. When we meet God for ourselves and find out how much we want to be like God, an amazing thing happens.”
5. Grab the cleaned penny and say, “We are changed. But unlike these pennies, we are not just changed on the outside. God changes our heart and our outside follows.”
6. Set up 2 stations outside, each with a gloved adult to help, and let the children come up and take turns dropping their pennies in so that they can be cleaned.
7. Then hand each child their own paper towel so that they dry their own pennies after they are clean.
8. Multiple pennies can be placed in the solution because it takes about 1 minute for the solution to do its full work. Make sure to stir them around a bit.
9. After the 1 minute is up take out the pennies and distribute them to the kids one at a time.
  - a. Don't let the kids worry about getting the same pennies back, tell them that they are all being cleaned and starting fresh, so they are all the same again.

#### Questions:

- Why do you think it requires God to help us to change our hearts?
- Is there anyone that God cannot help to change?

#### Life Application:

This was a fun experiment, but the truth of God changing our hearts is even more exciting. After we learn about God and who we are suppose to be through the Bible and ask God for help, God begins to change us from the inside out.

We can't continue to do bad things and just be mean to other people; instead, we become people who are more caring and good. Our hearts are made new and our actions change to reflect what our new heart looks like. This is how the Bible is Life-Changing.