



Resource Pack

Children's ministry resources & activities for groups & families exploring this week's theme.

stbartskids.org



WEEK 1

Hypocrisy

Big Issues / Matthew 23:23-28

OVERVIEW

GATHER

READ

CHAT

DO

PRAY

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This resource has been written and produced by St Bart's Kids and we're delighted to be able to share this curriculum with you. We pray that it would be an amazing tool to aid teaching and learning occurring either at home or within your children's ministry setting.

This package is part of a larger series on the book of Proverbs. The items within this package all pertain to **one session**.

The tabs on this document will help guide the main sections that should be incorporated within a session. Within each section you will find modifications for different age/learning levels - look for the tags Early Childhood, Lower Primary, Middle Primary, and Upper Primary.

All of the items within
If you have any questions or would like to know more about St Bart's Kids resources, please contact hello@stbartskids.org

TIMING

Welcome and play	15mins
Teaching Time (includes morning tea for Early Childhood)	15mins
Game (Kindy - Year 6 only)	10mins
Small Groups/Activities	20mins
Worship	10mins
Check-out	

MATERIALS

- Various dress up costumes, hats, and accessories
- Love hearts cutouts
- Masks
- Elastic
- Coloured pencils / crayons / markers
- Memory Opposites cards
- Mini whiteboard or large piece of butcher's paper
- Whiteboard marker or thick felt pens
- Printout of Praying man
- Printout of verses and questions

ADDITIONAL INFO

This resource is the first week in a three week series on Big Issues that Block Belief.

SESSION OUTLINE

THIS SUNDAY

18th September 2022

BIBLE FOCUS

Matthew 23:23-28

THEME

Hypocrisy

WEEK

1

OVERVIEW

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

SERIES OVERVIEW

The 2021 Census reported more Australians than ever ticking the 'no religion' box. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, only 44% of Australians identify as Christians – down from 52% five years earlier. But what's leading to such a decline? Research suggests that there's no 'one thing' but a range of issues that lead to scepticism. In this series, we'll consider three of the biggest issues and what Jesus may have said about each of them.

MULTIMEDIA

1. **SBK Kids Talk**
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StBartsToowoomba/featured>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some resources we recommend for helping teach the Gospel to kids.

1. **Article: Results are in: Aussies Admire People who Live Out a Genuine Faith.**
<https://www.eternitynews.com.au/australia/results-are-in-aussies-admire-people-who-live-out-a-genuine-faith/>

SONGS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

1. **Looking At My Heart | Preschool Worship Song**
<https://youtu.be/AS0Dqv-iJPo>
2. **Hope in My Heart | Preschool Worship Song**
<https://youtu.be/o-VhxoWTiss>
3. **Jump Around | Preschool Worship Song**
<https://youtu.be/x6r3eWJmCbE>

SONGS

PRIMARY

1. **Grow, Grow, Grow w: Lyrics**
<https://youtu.be/HqmwCWUii8A>
2. **I Have Decided | Cave Quest VBS Music Video**
<https://youtu.be/sEL0WpeH088>
3. **Open the Eyes of My Heart**
<https://youtu.be/7VM0m5ag2uQ>



GATHER

READ

CHAT

DO

PRAY

THIS SUNDAY

18th September 2022

BIBLE FOCUS

Matthew 23:23-28

THEME

Hypocrisy

TEACHING TIME

Hypocrisy

Before class begins, prepare three non-transparent cups. Make two of the cups dirty inside by smearing mud or similar and leave the third cup clean. Display the cups up the front, and ask the children which one they would prefer to drink from. After the children answer pick one child to come up the front and look inside the cups and decide which cup he or she would prefer to drink from and why.

Imagine drinking out of a dirty cup. Would you find it disgusting? Yet Jesus says this is what these pharisees were like. They were concerned with their appearance but gave little thought to their heart and their character. On the inside they were liars, corrupt and wicked.

They knew all the rules and laws people should live by and told everyone what to do or not do but when it came to their own lives they ignored them all. The pharisees thought they were better than everyone else and expected everyone to treat them that way.

Jesus knew the truth and not only told them outright that they were hypocrites (or pretenders) but told the whole crowd. Jesus wanted to turn their sinfulness into a learning opportunity. Jesus wanted to teach them not to consider themselves better than others, because they were all God's children, equal in His sight.

So how do we change our insides to match our outsides? How do we glorify God and not ourselves? We need to change our hearts. We need to live like Jesus. We need to be compassionate, patient, kind, forgive, love and share our faith with others.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS**1. Early Childhood**

Would you drink out of a dirty cup?

2. Lower Primary

Are you the same at home as in public?

3. Middle Primary

Do you sometimes think you're better than someone else?

4. Upper Primary

Are you putting on a show or is Christ the Lord the centre of your life?

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

WARM-UPS

- What does Hypocrisy mean?
- Have you known anyone who said one thing, and did another?

Early Childhood



How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You like to make a show of following all the rules.

Hypocrisy



But you forget about being kind and loving others.



God wants us to be genuine in following Jesus.

Early Childhood



You pretenders! You clean the outside of a cup. But not the inside.

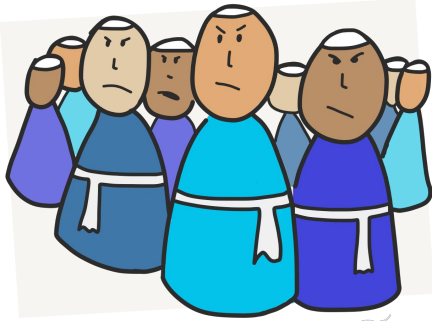


First clean the inside of the cup. Then the outside will also be clean.



It is the same with you. On the outside you seem to be doing what is right.

Early Childhood



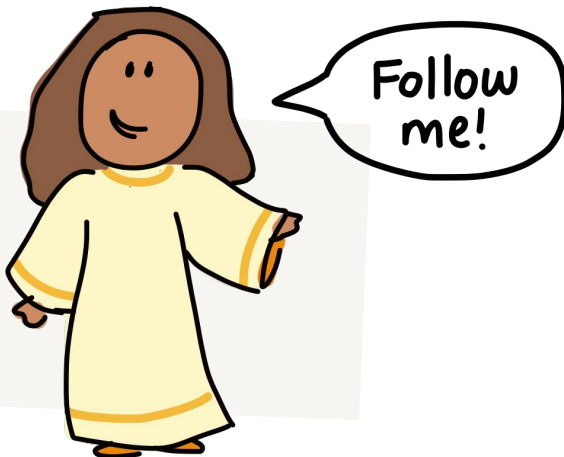
But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not.

Lower Primary



23-24 “How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You like to make a show of following all the rules. But you forget about being kind and loving towards others.

Hypocrisy



24 God wants us to be genuine in following Jesus.

Lower Primary

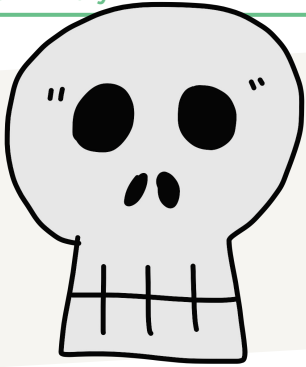


25 “How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You clean the outside of a cup and dish. But on the inside you are full of greed. You only want to satisfy yourselves.



26 First clean the inside of the cup and dish. Then the outside will also be clean.

Lower Primary



27 “How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You are like a cemetery which looks beautiful and peaceful. But is full of bones and dead bodies.



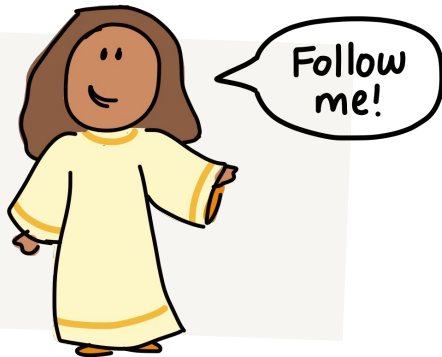
28 It is the same with you. On the outside you seem to be doing what is right. But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not.

Middle Primary



23 “How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You make a show of doing the right thing. But you have not practiced the more important things such as fairness, mercy and faithfulness.

Hypocrisy



24 You remove a tiny insect from your food, but you swallow a whole cockroach! God wants us to be genuine in following Jesus. To be fair, merciful and faithful.



25 “How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You clean the outside of a cup and dish. But on the inside you are full of greed. You only want to satisfy yourselves.

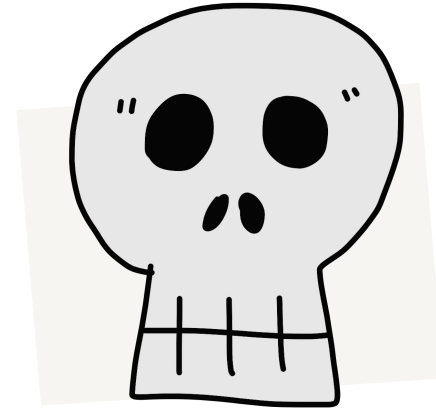
Middle Primary



26 First clean the inside of the cup and dish. Then the outside will also be clean.



27 “How terrible for you church leaders! You pretenders! You are like a cemetery. They have well-kept lawns, beautiful flowers, gleaming white headstones.



They look beautiful on the outside, but underneath they are full of bones and decaying bodies. They are also full of other things that are not pure.

Middle Primary



28 It is the same with you.
On the outside you seem
to be doing what is right.
But on the inside you are
full of what is wrong. You
pretend to be what you
are not.

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

Early Childhood**PRAYER**

Dear God,
Please help us to do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus.
Please help us to live like Jesus.
Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

View SBK ebook [Hypocrisy \(Matthew 23:23-28\)](#)

- 1. What does Jesus say the Pharisees are guilty of?**
Being pretenders
- 2. What were they doing wrong?**
The Pharisees were not doing what they were telling other people to do. They thought they were better than everyone else.
- 3. Who can help us not be like the Pharisees?**
God

“How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You pretenders!” MATTHEW 23:23a

On the outside you seem to be doing what is right. But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not. MATTHEW 23:28

THIS SUNDAY

18th September 2022

BIBLE FOCUS

Matthew 23:23-28

THEME

Hypocrisy

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

Lower Primary

PRAYER

Dear God,
Please help us to be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. Please help us to live like Jesus, to be compassionate, patient, kind, and loving to others. Help us to act in a way that glorifies you and not ourselves.
Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 23:23-28 from SBK Lower Primary Scripture

- 1. Have you ever heard the phrase “practice what you preach”? What do you think it means?**
It means that if you tell someone to do something, you need to do it, too. It means don't do the opposite thing that you say. Instead do what you say others should do.
- 2. What does Jesus say the Pharisees are guilty of?**
Being pretenders
- 3. What was wrong with the cups out the front?**
One was dirty inside.
- 4. In what way do the dirty cups represent the Pharisees?**
On the outside they seem to be doing what is right (clean cup). But on the inside they are full of what is wrong (dirty cup).
- 5. In what ways were the Pharisees being pretenders?**
They disobeyed rules, that they told others to follow. They appeared to be generous, but didn't show mercy towards others. They spent time making sure others could see them praying regularly, but went out of their way to question and try and trick Jesus.

- 6. Who can help us not be like the Pharisees?**

God

- 7. What's one thing this week you could do to help you remember to practice what you preach?**

“How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You pretenders!” MATTHEW 23:23a

On the outside you seem to be doing what is right. But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not. MATTHEW 23:28

THIS SUNDAY

18th September 2022

BIBLE FOCUS

Matthew 23:23-28

THEME

Hypocrisy

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

Middle Primary

PRAYER

Dear God,
Please help us to be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. Please help us to live like Jesus, to be compassionate, patient, kind, and loving to others. Help us to act in a way that glorifies you and not ourselves. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 23:23-28 from SBK Middle Primary Scripture

- 1. Have you ever heard the phrase “practice what you preach”? What do you think it means?**
It means that if you tell someone to do something, you need to do it, too. It means don't do the opposite thing that you say. Instead do what you say others should do.
- 2. What does Jesus say the Pharisees are guilty of?**
Being pretenders
- 3. What was wrong with the cups out the front?**
One was dirty inside.
- 4. In what way do the dirty cups represent the Pharisees?**
On the outside they seem to be doing what is right (clean cup). But on the inside they are full of what is wrong (dirty cup).
- 5. In what ways were the Pharisees being pretenders?**
They disobeyed rules, that they told others to follow. They appeared to be generous, but didn't show mercy towards others. They spent time making sure others could see them praying regularly, but went out of their way to question and try and trick Jesus.
- 6. Read 23:25-26 What did Jesus tell the Pharisees to do to overcome their hypocrisy?**

- 7. Who can help us not be like the Pharisees?**

God

- 8. What's one thing this week you could do to help you remember to practice what you preach?**

“How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You pretenders!” MATTHEW 23:23a

On the outside you seem to be doing what is right. But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not. MATTHEW 23:28

THIS SUNDAY

18th September 2022

BIBLE FOCUS

Matthew 23:23-28

THEME

Hypocrisy

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

Upper Primary

PRAYER

Dear God,

Please help us to be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. Please help us to live like Jesus, to be compassionate, patient, kind, and loving to others. Help us to act in a way that glorifies you and not ourselves. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 23:23-28 (from NIV New Adventurer Bible p1196-1197)

1. Have you ever heard the phrase “practice what you preach”? What do you think it means?

It means that if you tell someone to do something, you need to do it, too. It means don't do the opposite thing that you say. Instead do what you say others should do.

2. In what way do the dirty cups represent hypocrites?

On the outside people seem to be doing what is right (clean cup). But on the inside they are full of what is wrong (dirty cup).

3. In what ways were the Pharisees being hypocritical?

They disobeyed rules, that they told others to follow. They appeared to be generous, but didn't show mercy towards others. They spent time making sure others could see them praying regularly, but went out of their way to question and try and trick Jesus.

4. Read Matthew 23:5-6, in what other ways did the Pharisees show off in front of others?

They wear little boxes that hold scripture verses, they sat in the seat of honour.

5. Read 23:26 What did Jesus tell the Pharisees to do to overcome their hypocrisy?

6. How many times does Jesus use the word pretenders in the whole of chapter 23? Why?

6, because it's important to Jesus that the Pharisees know exactly what they are doing wrong.

7. What can we do if we see others acting hypocritically?

We can choose to obey God's laws even if we see others acting hypocritically.

8. Do you ever act one way at church and a completely different way at home or at school with your friends?

“How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You pretenders!” MATTHEW 23:23a

On the outside you seem to be doing what is right. But on the inside you are full of what is wrong. You pretend to be what you are not. MATTHEW 23:28

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Dear God,

Please help us to do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus.

Please help us to live like Jesus.

Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear God,

Please help us to be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. Please help us to live like Jesus, to be compassionate, patient, kind, and loving to others. Help us to act in a way that glorifies you and not ourselves.

Amen.

TIPS

Spend time not just talking to God this week but also listening to him.

Early Childhood

Dear God,

Please help us to do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus.

Please help us to live like Jesus.

Amen.

Sunday School

Dear God,

Please help us to be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. Please help us to live like Jesus, to be compassionate, patient, kind, and loving to others. Help us to act in a way that glorifies you and not ourselves.

Amen.

FOCUS

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

In this section, you'll find activities for Early Childhood and Primary School aged kids. There's a range of crafts, activities and games suitable for both individuals and groups.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Dress Ups
- Find the Hearts
- Masks
- Memory Opposites (*Kindy*)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Memory Opposites (*Prep*)
- Masks (*Prep*)
- Masks (1-2)
- Praying Man (3-4)
- Hypocrisy (5-6)

GAMES

- Simon Says (*Kindy*)
- Opposite Simon Says (*Prep-Yr 6*)

Dress Ups

YOU'LL NEED...

- Various dress up costumes, hats, and accessories

THIS SUNDAY

18th September 2022

BIBLE FOCUS

Matthew 23:23-28

THEME

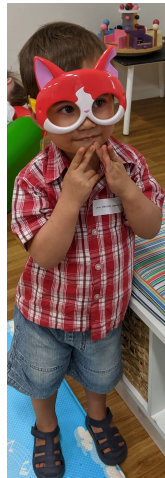
Hypocrisy

WEEK

1

STEPS

1. Bring out the Dress ups.
2. Talk about how when we dress up, we often play the part of a different person/ character.
3. Have the children enjoy dressing up as different characters.



Link

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach and not pretend to be someone they're not.

Find the Hearts

YOU'LL NEED...

- Love hearts cutouts

STEPS

1. Hide the hearts cutouts around the room and outside.
2. Get the children to try and find all the hearts.



Link

Followers of Jesus need to change their hearts to match their actions.

Masks

YOU'LL NEED...

- Masks
- Elastic
- Coloured pencils / crayons / markers

STEPS

1. Give each child a mask and get them to colour it in.
2. Attach the elastic so they can wear it.
3. Talk to the children about how the way the Pharisees were acting and pretending it was like they were wearing a mask.



Link

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach and not pretend to be someone they're not.

Memory Opposites

YOU'LL NEED...

- Memory Opposites cards

STEPS

1. Lay the opposite picture cards face down in rows.
2. One at a time children turn over two cards, if they are the opposite they keep them.
3. If they don't match, the cards are turned face down again and it's the next child's turn.
4. Keep playing until all cards have been matched. The winner is the child with the most cards at the end.



Link

The Pharisees didn't do what they told others to do, instead they often did the opposite.

Praying Man

YOU'LL NEED...

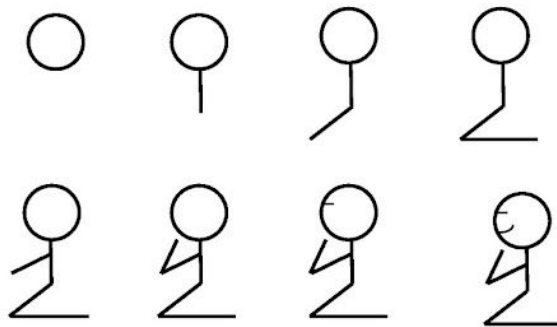
- Mini whiteboard or large piece of butcher's paper
- Whiteboard marker or thick felt pens
- Printout of Praying man

STEPS

1. Choose a word from today's story (or a word that is related to the theme and teaching of today's story).
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words.
3. Each child takes turns to try and guess ONE letter at a time.
4. If the letter is correct - fill in that letter on each dash it appears. If the letter is not used in that word, you need to add one body part of the drawing each time.
5. It is also useful to keep a list of the error letters down the side, so the children recall which letters have already been chosen.
6. Explain to the players that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the guessing players have lost the game. If however the team works out the word before the person has been drawn, they win.

<http://www.booksbycorine.com/blog/how-to-play-praying-man>

Praying Man

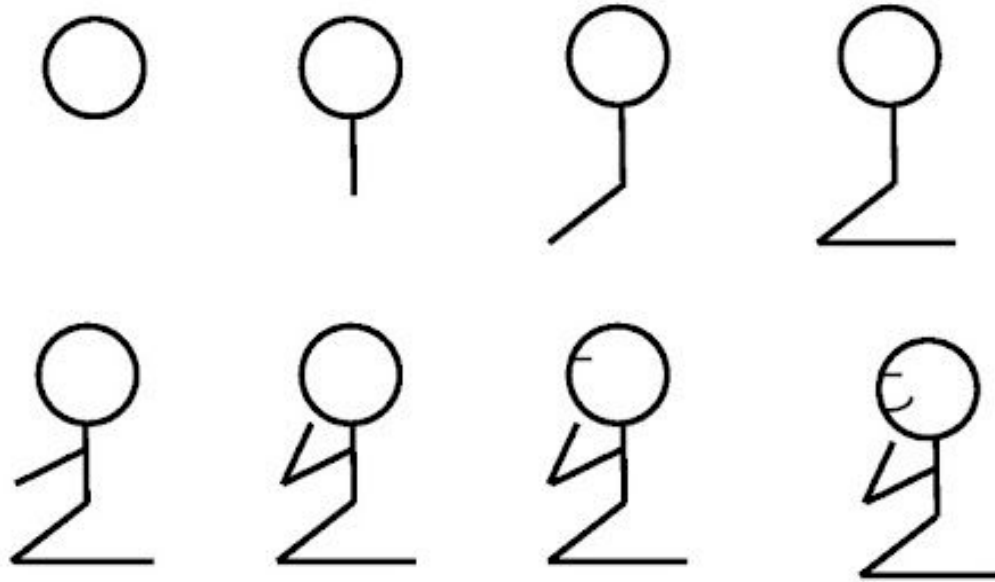


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Link

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

Praying Man



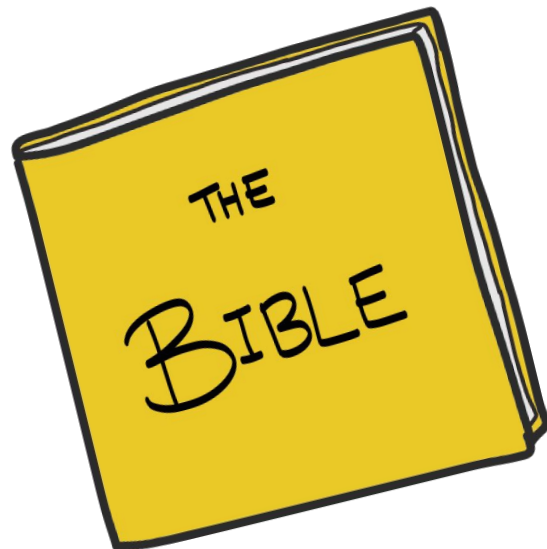
Hypocrisy

YOU'LL NEED...

- Printout of verses and questions

STEPS

1. Have the children take turns looking up and reading the bible verses on the printout one at a time.
2. As a group answer the two questions for each verse.



Link

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach

Verses

Matthew 23:23-24

Matthew 23:25-26

Matthew 23:27-28

Questions

How were the Pharisees being hypocritical?

What examples of this kind of hypocrisy do we see in our lives?

GAME: Simon Says

YOU'LL NEED...

- N/A

STEPS

1. Gather the children around with a leader out the front.
2. Explain that when it is led with "Simon says..." they are to follow the instruction. As usual, some instructions can omit the "Simon says...", but at this age children do not need to be 'out'. Just make it fun and enjoyable with encouraging words if they do the wrong action.
3. Increase the difficulty of the game as it progresses - start with "touch your head/knees/ elbows" and "jump on the spot/run in a circle", and then can be made gradually more challenging such as "tap your knee with your hand".



Link

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach and do what they say they're going to do.

GAME: Opposite Simon Says

YOU'LL NEED...

- N/A

STEPS

1. Lead kids through a couple rounds of Simon Says.
2. After a few rounds of Simon Says, explain to the children that we now going to play it the opposite way.
3. The children still need to listen for, "Simon Says" before they do a motion. But, in the Opposite Simon Says, they will do the opposite of what the leader says.
4. Examples: "Simon says, don't touch your head", (kids touch your head.)
"Simon says, don't clap your hands." (Kids clap their hands.)
"Simon says, Stand up." (Kids sit.)
"Stand up." (Kids should not move.)
"Simon says, Sit down." (Kids will stand up.)
"Simon says, Don't pat your head." (Kids will pat their head.)
"Simon says, Don't stop patting your head." (Kids will stop.)
"Pat your stomach." (Kids should not move).



Link

Followers of Jesus should practice what they preach and do what they say they're going to do and not the opposite.