

# Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

## One Righteous Dude

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

**Matthew 5:6**

**Lesson Overview:** This lesson is designed to help children understand the righteousness of God, in addition to understanding what being a righteous Christian is all about. This lesson primarily targets the children who claim Salvation, but it does not exclude those who may not be saved. Additionally, this lesson will help children stay clear on the requirements of Salvation and the importance of true dedication to Him, which is essential.

### Requirements for the lesson:

#### Object Lesson #1

1. A large, clear plastic or glass cylinder with one flat, open end (such as a pitcher)
2. A large, clear glass pan big enough to place the clear cylinder.
3. Four square blocks of equal size to be used as supports (blocks, erasers, etc)
4. A 3-foot plastic tube
5. Water

#### Object Lesson #2

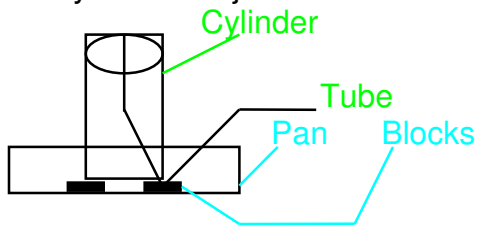
A filthy, oily rag

#### Object Lesson #3

1. A red stamp pad
2. A stamp with a big letter "R"

## Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

**“Sealed For Redemption!”** - Place the **glass pan** on a surface and in an area that can get wet without damage. Place the **four blocks** in the pan so that you can turn the glass or plastic **cylinder** upside-down on the blocks. Next, run the **plastic tube** under and up into the cylinder. Fill the pan with water. As soon as you get the pan full, begin to suck the air out of the cylinder with the hose. *NOTE: Keep suction on the hose so the water does not run back out into the pan.* You will probably have to repeatedly fill the pan as the water begins to rise into the cylinder. Continue until you get the cylinder *completely* full. Remove the hose, keeping suction on it until it is removed. Now you’re ready for the object lesson.



**Explain** that the water in the cylinder appears to defy God’s Law of Gravity. We are God’s children and we are not saved by laws and rules; but instead, are saved by Jesus, which breaks all of the world’s rules. The water has a seal that keeps it from falling out of the cylinder. Like the water, we are sealed by

*the righteousness of God’s Spirit. If we break the righteous seal between the water in the tank and the air outside of the tank, then it will fall. It no longer has its righteous seal and is allowed to go into a big mess. The same thing can happen to Christians who choose to willfully disobey God. If we do it long enough, we break the righteous seal God puts on our lives, and we end up in a big mess too.*

Allow a student (who’s parents may not mind if the child gets a little wet) lift the cylinder and allow the seal to break. **Emphasize how quickly this can happen to us if we don’t build our faith in Christ.**

**“A Righteous Seal!”** At the conclusion of the lesson, invite the children who are firmly committed to Christ to come up and get a stamp on their forehead. The stamp “R” represents the righteousness of Christ. Emphasize that they should not come up unless they intend to live for Jesus all their days, as well as continually grow in the Word every day. Otherwise, it would be better for them not to make such a commitment.

# The Lesson:

**DO THE OBJECT LESSON:** *“Sealed For Redemption!”*

**READ: Matthew 5:6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

1. Righteousness: What Is It?

We talk a lot about a word called *righteousness*. We talk about being made righteous, staying righteous, but at the same time we say how we don't have any righteousness of our own. This sounds confusing, but it really is not. Listen closely today, and you'll get the whole scoop.

a. Definition

(You may want to remind the class of the object lesson for this next question)

**QUESTION:** So who would like to tell the class what righteousness means to you?

Having righteousness simply means being "right" (or sin-less) in God's eyes. The Bible says this about righteousness: When Adam and Eve first sinned, they became all "wrong" (or what we call sinful). Sin changed the life of all people forever. We were made right by God in the beginning (perfect and without sin), but they made themselves all wrong. Until Jesus came along, people had a very hard time of trying to be right for God. In fact, they just couldn't do it on their own.

**QUESTION:** Do you know what the people had to do in Moses' day before God forgave their sins? (Animal sacrifices)

God gave Moses laws for His people to follow, but they always had to sacrifice animals for their sins when they broke them—which was all the time. They never could stay right before God! That's why God had to send us Jesus. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins—once and for all.

**READ:** Romans 6:16. *“. . .you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”*

**QUESTION:** So just *who* is righteousness? (Jesus)

b. What does  
Righteousness Look Like?

**QUESTION:** What then, lets us have God's righteousness?

- Having Jesus in our heart. Only the people who really believe in God and His Son Jesus have righteousness.
- God our Father has forgiven us
- Being accepted by God
- Approved by God

**QUESTION:** What do you think righteousness looks like?

**DO OBJECT LESSON #2** - Allow the children to respond, and then show them the rag!

This is what the Bible has to say about *our* righteousness. This is what we are like when we try to be righteous on our own, and without Jesus' help. We just can't get the junk off. When we let Jesus make us righteous, then the Bible says it is like we are dressed in the finest cloths ever seen. Have you ever seen a lady in a wedding dress? It is the best that she will ever be dressed. That's how Jesus says we will look if we allow Him to dress us in His righteousness.

c. What Does  
Righteousness Bring?

**READ: Matthew 5:6.** *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."*

**QUESTION:** What does our memory verse Scripture say will happen to us if we are righteous? (Satisfied)

**QUESTION:** What are some things that satisfy you?

- Something we live on
- Something we drink or eat
- Something that keeps us alive
- Something that makes us feel good or happy
- Something treasured at a great price

**QUESTION:** Have you ever seen a person (maybe another kid your age) that is never satisfied?

**QUESTION:** How do they act?

- Like they have everything, but want more
- They want what you got and what they got too
- They always have to win
- Everything has to be their way
- They always want more than they need
- They already have it, but they want the newest one

There may be lots of things we can see about a person who is never satisfied. People like these do not have God's righteousness.

**QUESTION:** If we have God's righteousness and are satisfied, then how should we feel?

- Happy with the things and family that God has given us
- Never greedy—always giving
- We're happy, no matter what

### 3. Losing Righteousness

Did you know that you can lose the righteousness God gives us. Remember how the water had a "righteous" seal that kept it from coming out? God puts that seal on us. But we have to have a good and willing heart to serve Him in order to keep it.

#### a. Righteousness Can Be Hard

**READ:** Matthew 5:10. *"Blessed are those who are persecuted \* (punished) for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

**QUESTION:** This scripture says that we can be harmed or made fun of for righteousness. Why do you think that something so good can bring us trouble?

- It's special
- It's like a priceless treasure
- Some people become jealous of what we have
- Some people just don't want us to have it—they don't love Jesus

#### b. Devil Hates It

**READ:** Acts 13:10 *"...You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all [tricks] and [meanness], will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?"*

**QUESTION:** What does the Devil try to do about our righteousness?

- Steal it from us
- Ruin it
- Tries to change it into something else

**QUESTION:** The Devil just wants to put you on a detour. Why do you think he wants to do that? (He's jealous because he doesn't have righteousness)

#### 4. Getting (and Keeping) God's Righteousness

##### a. Watch Out For Counterfeit Righteousness!

##### b. A Wonderful Gift Of Righteousness

Remember the story about how the Devil wanted to be greater than God is by taking His place in heaven? That was really a foolish thing to do. The Devil wanted all of God's righteousness for himself. Instead of that happening, the Devil lost what righteousness he had. We can lose it to when we keep doing things that are bad.

The good news is that we can get righteousness from God, and He really loves to give it out. He loves to see the Devil try to lie and say how you're a mess, because He gets to tell Him to be quiet! He says, "Hey! Don't be talking about *MY* kid that way. They are righteous because I say so!" He might even send a few angels to come and take care of that Devil.

There are some things that do help us get God's righteousness, but there are other things that just look like they will help us get it. These things are like counterfeit money. They look very "right", but they are very "wrong"!

**QUESTION:** What helps us become righteousness?

- Living for Jesus
- Studying God's Word
- Doing God's Word
- Discipline (Hebrews 12:11)

**QUESTION:** What does *not* help us become righteous?

- Living our own way
- Living the Devil's way
- Living the world (Giving in to peer pressure)
- Trying to be good just by what you do.

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 5:21. *"For our sake he made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

God did something very special for all of us. He let His perfect Son die on a cross for our sins so we wouldn't have to be sinful anymore. Like our water came out of the pitcher when the seal was broken, we can't be righteous to a law if we've broken it. If we steal, then we go to jail because we did not keep the law. We also can't be righteous by Jesus with sin in our lives.

**QUESTION:** So how do we get rid of our sin?

- Get Jesus in our heart
- Ask Jesus to take our sin away

5. The Most Important Thing About Righteousness

a. Jesus Brings Us Righteousness

**QUESTION:** Can you guess what the most important part of God's righteousness is? (Jesus!)

**Read:** 1 Peter 2:24. *"He (Jesus) himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (that's the cross), that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

Jesus took all of the "wrong" in your life and put it on himself. Jesus didn't want us to ever have bad stuff in our lives anymore, so He took it all away so you could be righteous.

**QUESTION:** How does that make you feel?

b. God's Mark Of Righteousness

**READ:** 2 Peter 2:21. *"For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them."*

Explain that this scripture means that the righteousness of God is only for those that keep His commands because they truly love Him and others the way Jesus commands us to love them.

6. Receiving It!

Have a call to salvation if there are children in your class that are possibly not saved. *Briefly* explain what rededication is, and then ask if there are any who would like to rededicate their lives to Jesus. Afterward, explain that we are marked with a seal for when Jesus comes. Invite those who are saved and want to live for Jesus to come up to the front. Take the stamp and mark each child with an "R" on their forehead as a symbol of God's righteousness on their lives.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***"A Righteous Seal!"***

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