

Go & Tell (15-20 minutes)

6. Practice

Retell the story to model for them.

- *Let everyone retell or summarise the story.*
- *What is the main point of the story?*



Equip

7. Cast Vision

A very poor holy man lived in a remote part of China. Every day before his time of meditation in order to show his devotion, he put a dish of butter up on the window sill as an offering to God, since food was so scarce. One day his cat came in and ate the butter.



Vision

To remedy this, he began tying the cat to the bedpost each day before the quiet time. This man was so revered for his piety that others joined him as disciples and worshipped as he did. Generations later, long after the holy man was dead, his followers placed an offering of butter on the window sill during their time of prayer and meditation. Furthermore, each one bought a cat and tied it to the bedpost.

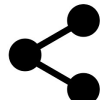
Many people today have religious traditions which have been passed down to them. Are your traditions keeping you separated from God? Others need to hear that God wants our hearts, not our traditions!

8. Plan - With whom can I **SHARE**?

- *Who else needs to hear what you are learning?*
- *Is there anyone you can invite to join us?*



Plan



Reproduce

9. Pray

Model a simple prayer for participants, asking God to give them understanding and a desire to share what they've heard with others.



Pray

Extra Challenge (verse to memorize or Bible passages to read)

Discover Jesus



Please copy freely. Do not modify.



Hope in a Broken world

3/3 Bible Discovery Session

Jesus Demands a Choice (3 of 6) “No Hope in Traditions”

Report & Celebrate (15-20 minutes)

1. Share & Care

- *What has been the best thing and the worst thing about your week?*



Care

2. Accountability

Following

- *What do you remember from our last session?*
- *How have you seen God at work around you?*



Report

Fishing

- *Did you tell anyone else what you learned? How did it go? Were there challenges or questions?*



Sow

3. Worship

Close this section with a simple prayer thanking God for what He has done this week!



Worship

Notes:

- Always read from the Bible. **Use it as your only resource!**
- Always remember that you are modelling how they will do this in the future, so don't get too creative!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

Hear & Obey (15-20 minutes)

4. New Lesson - What does the story **SAY**?

Let participants read the story 2 times in two different translations.

- *Is there anything that surprises or shocks you?*
- *What do you learn about people in this story?*
- *What do you learn about Jesus (God) in this story?*
- *Does your view of Jesus (God) change? How?*
- *Where do you see yourself in this story? Why?*



Learn

5. Application - What must I **OBEY**?

- *Is there anything you think you should do as a result of hearing this story?*



Correct

Notes:

- Before you read the story, explain that the **Pharisees** were a group of Jews who studied God's law and thought that they kept all God's rules; but they were proud and had high opinions of themselves. They were the "religious police" who thought it was their responsibility to keep everyone else in line!
- Before you read the story, explain that Jesus had 12 disciples. **Disciples** are people who spend a lot of time with a leader; being influenced by His teachings and trying to follow His example by modelling their lives after Him!



Guide

Do's and Do Not's

- **Do** keep it short (1 hour or less).
- **Do** let the Holy Spirit be the teacher.
- **Do** remember to study for obedience rather than for knowledge!
- **Don't** dominate the conversation; encourage everyone to participate. Facilitator = 30%, Participants = 70%
- **Don't** demand correct answers.
- **Don't** get distracted, stay on topic.
- **Don't** be afraid to say "I don't know the answer, I'll get back to you."

Jesus Teaches about Inner Purity

Mark 7:1-23 (NLT)

1 One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. 2 They noticed that some of His disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. 3 (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. 4 Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked Him, "Why don't Your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony."

6 Jesus replied, "*You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. 7 Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' 8 For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition.*"

9 Then He said, "*You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition. 10 For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.'* 11 But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' 12 In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. 13 And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others."

14 Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "*All of you listen,*" He said, "*and try to understand. 15 It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.*"

17 Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and His disciples asked Him what He meant by the parable He had just used. 18 "*Don't you understand either?*" He asked. "*Can't you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? 19 Food doesn't go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer.*" (By saying this, He declared that every kind of food is acceptable in God's eyes.)

20 And then He added, "*It is what comes from inside that defiles you. 21 For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.*"