

When Good Isn't Good Enough

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 1****Focus:**

We can never be good enough without Jesus.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

Acts 22:3-4;
Philippians 3:4-9;

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —Romans 3:22-23

Your students will explore hurtful words and answer humbling questions as they begin to understand our need for redemption from our sin.

Materials:

None

Begin today's lesson by using the following question as a starting point to discuss the sinful nature that lies within all of us.

➤ **What is the best thing you have ever done?** (If there are any volunteers, allow a few of your students to share some of their personal stories.)

Due to the sensitive nature of this next question, instruct your students to internalize their answers, focusing on their silent response throughout this introduction to the lesson.

➤ **What is the worst thing you have ever done?**

The answer to this question is likely something that none of us are eager to share with others anytime soon. In fact, when compared against their opposite, the "best" things we've done often become quickly overshadowed by our own guilt and regret.

➤ **What's the most hurtful thing anything has ever said to you? Did they say it to you in person or through text or social media? How did their words affect you?** (Answers will vary.)

As these sobering hurtful words demonstrated, nobody's perfect; more accurately, we're all pretty far from it—not just by actions, but by words. No matter what good we do, it'll never be enough to meet God's standard, and it won't erase the bad or hurtful things we've done or said. However, as we'll learn today, there is Someone who met God's standard on our behalf. Our best isn't good enough, but His best is beyond what is required. Let's take a look.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 1 / December 6, 2020

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STEP 4 

Lesson 1

Focus:

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Memory Verse:

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Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring an index card or piece of paper, along with a pen or pencil, with them to class.

So far today, we've come face to face with the harsh reality that we'll never be good enough apart from God. This can be disheartening news, but it's actually something that should be celebrated! All of the hard work has already been done by Jesus; all that's left is for us to accept His gift, put Him on in baptism, and celebrate our new life in Him.

Hand out one index card to each student and a pen/pencil. If your class is meeting online, invite students to have their papers and pens or pencils ready.

Have students decorate one side of the index card to look like a gift (draw a bow, a wrapping paper pattern, a gift label, etc.). On the other side of the card, have them write this phrase: **YOU are a new creation in Christ!** Encourage students to keep the card as a reminder of their new life.

Now, we've all been given the incredible gift of a new life in Christ, but there are so many others who are still trying to be good enough in their own strength and have yet to hear the Gospel message. It's up to us to take this news to them.

Challenge your students to spread the good news of salvation to others this upcoming week. Encourage your class by explaining that this can be as simple as befriending someone new or inviting them to church.

Close in prayer, thanking God for being willing and able to overcome our sin and, in turn, giving us eternal life with Him.

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