

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 the impact of hurtful words as they begin to understand our need for redemption from our sin.

Materials:

- Internet access

Begin today's lesson by inviting students to participate in a discussion about words.

The words we use are powerful and have lasting impact. Take a moment to think about it—you probably remember some of the nicest and meanest things people have said to you without having to think too hard about it.

- **What's the kindest, most encouraging thing anyone 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.)**
- **What's the most hurtful thing anyone 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. Both the kind and hurtful words also demonstrated just how much we are impacted by what people say to us. Let's watch a short video about kind words.

Play the following video for your students [3:08]:
Kind Words Are Cool

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND_AlJQdw4Y

This video showed us the deep impact our words can have on others: both good and bad. We can and should use our words carefully so they encourage and build others up, rather than hurting or tearing them down.

➤ **Do you think we can ever hear enough good and kind things to erase the bad or hurtful things we've heard? Why or why not?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

Sadly, no matter how many kinds words we use—or good things 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, the good news we'll learn today is that there's 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 3, 2023

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for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 1

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Memory Verse:

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Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies 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 and celebrate our new life in Him.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). 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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