

January 25, 2026

1ST–3RD Grade Sunday School

Candy Factory Week 4: Oofa Loofas

Video Game:

This or That Candy Edition

It is in the "Sunday School Videos" album and the date is in the comments.

Game: MESSY MEDDLERS VS CLEAN CLEANERS

ITEMS NEEDED:

T-shirts, paint shirts, and several laundry baskets

INSTRUCTIONS:

Split the kids into two teams. One half will be the messy meddlers and the other team will be the clean cleaners. The object of the game is for the meddlers to keep things messy and the cleaners to keep things clean. Provide "dirty laundry" for the messy meddlers to throw all over the room. Provide laundry baskets for the clean cleaners to throw the dirty laundry into. Begin a timer for just one minute. Tell the kids to do their best to "make a mess" or "clean" as the teams work against one another when the timer goes off. Count how many things are in the basket vs how many out. Whichever team has the most wins that round. Play another round for 2 minutes, and another for 3. Create a rule that kids can only take 1 shirt out at a time and can only put 1 shirt in at a time. Kids must move on to a different basket once they have taken one out or put one in, and cannot "puppy dog guard" the same basket. Also, create a rule that kids cannot move the laundry baskets, but they have to stay in place. Kids can run around as much as they'd like trying to race each other to remove a shirt or put a shirt in. They can throw shirts far away from baskets to make it challenging for the cleaners.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We can't keep things clean on our own! We need Jesus to wash us clean permanently!

Lesson: If we go the wrong way, we will end up in some sticky situations!

The other day, I dropped ice cream all over my shirt. What a mess. I had to throw my shirt into the washer before it stained. But the stain came out. Have you ever made a mess eating something tasty? Raise your hand and share the biggest mess you've ever gotten on yourself eating. I'll call on a few of you to share.

Ha! What a mess! Well, today we are talking about messes because we are in a big mess. Humans have been ever since sin entered the world. We can't get out of this mess on our own. Anytime we try to, we just end up sinning again! We need something that permanently cleans us and makes us pure. We need Jesus! Today we are going to read about sin and the answer to getting clean.

READ ROMANS 3:23 & 1 JOHN 1:8-9

Sin really is a problem, isn't it? I mean because of sin there is death. We are separated from God, the one who loves us and created us. What a big pickle we are in! I'd rather be in a candy bar than a pickle... but maybe that's just me. Anyway... Anytime we try to get rid of sin on our own we fail. We might be successful in being "good" for a little while, but something will happen that puts us over the edge. We just don't have the strength we need to fight off sin alone. God never created us to be alone. He created us to be in a relationship with Him! We need His help and His strength.

So, Jesus came to help us! To save us from our sins. And now when we sin, we can pray and ask for forgiveness. And when we are tempted to sin, we

can pray and ask for God's help to resist sin. We are no longer separated from God. We have the Holy Spirit and He gives us strength. When we pray and ask for help, He will help us!

Let's not be like the Oofa Loofas, who try to make the factory perfectly clean all on their own - as cute as they may be. Trying to make the factory perfectly clean is an endless job. They have to be wiped out! Let's depend on Jesus to make us clean instead. If we have a personal relationship with Him, talking to Him in prayer, reading our Bibles and getting to know what God has done in the past and what He promises to do in the future...then He will purify us. He will make us like Him. When we accept Jesus into our hearts, we are asking Him to forgive us for our sins. And when we are choosing to have a real relationship with Jesus, we are taking steps to grow closer to Him, become more like Him, and sin less and less. We will never be perfect like Jesus until we are in heaven, but we will find ourselves sinning less and our hearts changing to love others like Jesus does! This is what it means to be cleansed! These are the SWEET REWARDS! This is what it means to let Jesus into our hearts!

WE CAN NEVER BE 'GOOD ENOUGH', ONLY BY THE GRACE OF JESUS! WE CAN'T EARN OUR SALVATION, BUT IT IS A GIFT FROM JESUS! Let's accept His gift to us! Let's thank Him that we don't have to strive to be perfect because it is an endless tiring job. But instead, let's let Him into our hearts so that He can change us to be like Him!

Discussion Questions:

1. Who has sinned? Is there anyone who has never sinned?
2. Is there any way to be good enough on our own?
3. How do we become cleansed? What does it take to become more like Jesus?

Close in prayer.

Memory Verse:

THIS WEEK: "I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God." Revelation 21:3 (NIRV)

If they memorize the verse, they can get a ping pong ball to put in the BLUE BOX in the hallway.