

September 21, 2025

1ST–3RD Grade Sunday School

Ooey Gooey Week 3: Messy Outside

Video Game:

Guess The Mess 1

It is the video hearted in the photos app.

Game:

Items Needed:

Bags with gross items in them

Instructions:

Devide the room into 4 even groups. If teams are not even, have people go twice to make it even. Each team will be given one sock. The other sock from their pair will be mixed up with all the other team's socks. Have one member of each team stand on one side of the room with all the other team members lined up behind them. On the other side of the room, make a pile of all of the socks. When you say "go" tell the first member of each team to take the sock and run to the sock pile, find a match for their sock, drop the old sock in the pile, pick up the new sock, and take it back to the next person in line. The next person in line will do the same thing...until the very last team member. The last team member will take the sock run to the other side of the room, find the matching sock, and take them BOTH back. The first team to have their matching socks once all team members have gone, wins!

WHAT'S THE POINT:

We might look messy on the outside with messy rooms full of socks, but Jesus meets us in our mess!

Lesson: It's the inside, not the outside that counts!

JESUS MEETS US IN OUR MESS! You might think that you are way too messy for Jesus...but you don't have to worry about that. Jesus loves you! He isn't afraid of our messes. Sometimes our mess can look like the fact that we are clumsy and we fall down easily. Other times our messes can look like we are scattered and unorganized. Perhaps the mess you are in is because of mistakes you have made and now you don't know what to do and how you got there. JESUS MEETS US IN OUR MESS...any kind of mess.

Raise your hand if you like getting messy sometimes! Sometimes messes can be kind of fun. Let's all try a fun mess together. We are going to try an UNORGANIZED CHAOTIC MESS. Everyone is sitting so nicely and so orderly. But right now, I want everyone to stand up and (STAYING SOMEWHERE IN THE ROOM)...I want you to run to a new spot in the room. Great, now in this spot I want you to wiggle around and bounce up and down. What do you think of this? Isn't this fun? Would it make for a good lesson? Would you be able to hear? Would you be able to see well? I don't think so. Everyone back to where you were sitting!

There is a mess that we sometimes don't think about. Disease. Disease is messy because it isn't always pleasant to look at or it can be very uncomfortable. Today we are going to read a story in the Bible about some men who had a skin disease. But this doesn't scare Jesus away, not in the least bit! Let's listen to what happens.

READ LUKE 17:11-19

That was amazing! Jesus talked with those men and they listened. He instructed them to be cleansed in their church. God cares about each and every one of us! He cares about our messes too. Sometimes God heals our messes and sometimes He allows the messes in our lives so that we can see our need for Him. These men who had a disease were all in need of help from God.

But did you notice that only one man returned to thank Jesus? What happened to the rest of the men? Sometimes, once our messes have been cleaned up, we can forget to give God recognition for what He has done. We can forget to thank Him. We can also forget that all blessings come from God. At least one man out of the ten recognized what God had done for him and thanked Him.

You see God doesn't care so much about what is on the outside, but what is on the inside! God chose to heal the skin disease for these men so that they could see their need for Him. There is something way more important than how things look on the outside. It is our hearts. God cares more about our hearts being changed for the good than he does about how we look. He cares about us accepting Jesus into our hearts and being changed on the inside. JESUS MEETS US IN OUR MESS. And IT IS THE INSIDE, NOT THE OUTSIDE THAT COUNTS! Sometimes God chooses to heal our outsides but what He is really after is that our hearts will be changed for the good!

The man who returned to thank Jesus had a change of heart. He understood that it wasn't just about his outside appearance, it was about being changed on the inside. We can be changed on the inside too! When we let Jesus into our hearts and let Him change us. JESUS MEETS US IN OUR MESS and we can open up our hearts when He comes to meet us and let Him change us for the good!

Discussion Questions:

1. How many men did Jesus send to be healed?
2. How many returned and what does this say about their heart? Had it changed?
3. What is more important to God...how we look on the outside or who we are on the inside?
4. Do you need to clean up your act first for Jesus to meet with you? (Hint: Tagline for the curriculum!)

Close in prayer.

Memory Verse:

LAST WEEK: "But I trust in your faithful love. My heart is filled with joy because you will save me." Psalm 13:5 (NIRV)

NEW THIS WEEK: "Jesus heard that. So he said to them, "Those who are healthy don't need a doctor. Sick people do. I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to follow me." Mark 2:17 (NIRV)

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