



A Leopard Can't Change His Spots

Jeremiah 13:23

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Markers/Pencils
- ✓ Pre-Assembled Blank Books
- ✓ Copy of Leopard Photo
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



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Objective of Lesson

We are sinners not only because of what we do, but it is what we are. Just like a leopard can't change its spots, we cannot change our nature; however the Gospel is good news, because with Christ all things are possible.

Scripture Reference

Jeremiah 13:23 - Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Lesson Instructions

1. Hand out blank pre-assembled blank books to each child in the class. Today we are going to do a series of drawings on each blank page of this book.
2. The first thing I want you to draw is a picture of a leopard. (Hold up the photo of the leopard) You can use this as your reference. Do you think if I handed this leopard a crayon it could change the color of its spots? No, but I bet it could if I gave it paint to change its spots, right? No? Do animals have the power to change how they look? No, they don't have the power to do that.
3. Now I want you do draw a tree. Once you draw the tree, let's decide to make it a fruit tree. What kind of fruit tree should it be? Apple? If this is going

to be an apple tree, you should draw bananas all over it right? No! Apple trees don't grown bananas, do they? They can only grow apples. Apple trees can't decide they want to change and grow bananas if they want to. No, they don't have the power to do that.

4. I want you all to pick a crayon and hide it behind your back, and don't show anybody else the color you have picked. Now I want you all to go to a corner and use it to change the color of your skin. If you choose pink, or brown, or green, go into a corner, change your skin color, and then we will all come out and surprise each other....what? Why are you all still standing here? You mean you can't change your skin color? You mean we don't have that power? No, we don't. That is silly!
5. Now I would like you to draw a mommy and a daddy - put it at the top of the page. Pick a hair color, eye color, skin color, etc.
6. The next thing I would like you to draw is their baby. What would that baby look like? While they are drawing, talk about the characteristics that the baby would have: what color hair, what color eyes, what color skin? When the child is grown will it be as tall as the mother or the father?
7. Most important will it be human and act like a human? If that mommy and daddy had a baby, would it look and be a rabbit? Ha! No! That is silly. People don't have rabbits. They have people, not animals!
8. Let's pretend this really was their baby. Would this baby act like a cat? (Act like a cat, purr and act like you're licking your paw and cleaning your ears etc.) What about a dog? (Pant like a dog, bark, and wag your tail) How would the baby act? It would act like a human - just like the parents.
9. In the Bible it tells us that all humans who have ever lived are sinners. (Rom. 3:10 - "As it is written, **There is none righteous**, no, not one:") Hold up the pictures of your family. Are these humans? Then they are sinners. What does that mean? It means these people (point to the couple) are born breaking the law of God and their baby (point to the baby) is born breaking the law of God also, and every baby that baby has is born breaking the law of

- God as well. We can't change the fact that we are law breakers. (Hold up the apple tree) We are just like this apple tree that can't decide whether it wants to grow apples. We can't decide to not be sinners. (Hold up the leopard) We are just like this leopard that can't decide it wants to change its spots - We can't decide to not be sinners. We are so helpless, and we can't change that we are sinners. The Bible says we all born speaking lies and deny that God is God, and that He does as He pleases on heaven and earth. We all lie, we all steal, and we all wish we had more than we have. We are all sinners.
10. Hold up all the pictures - we just proved that we are helpless, didn't we? We need someone who can save us from our sin. Who can do that? Jesus Christ the Son of God can. He came to this earth - was he a rabbit? NO, he was a man. Why? A perfect man is the only one that God will accept to take the punishment for our sins. Since we will never have a perfect person, (hold up the family picture again) we can only have sinners. That is why God sent HIS Son to die for His people. A person is born not able to see and understand the things of God, so do you think it is possible for a person to have a child that does? No, but with God - ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!
 11. Mark 10:27 - "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

Lesson Activities

- Make the blank books ahead of time. Print off the cover page provided. Place the cover page on the bottom and place a blank printer sheet on top. Fold the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 sheets in half. The finished size is 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Use a stapler to bind the pages together at the folded edge. Make one book per child.

Take Home Lesson Overview



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Lesson Overview:

In the Bible it tells us that all humans who have ever lived are sinners (Rom 3:10 - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:") Hold up the pictures of your family. Are these humans? Then they are sinners. What does that mean? It means these people (point to the couple) are born breaking the law of God and their baby (point to the baby) is born breaking the law of God, and every baby that baby has is born breaking the law of God. We can't change the fact that we are law breakers. (Hold up the apple tree) We are just like this apple tree that can't decide if it wants to grow apples. We can't decide to not be sinners. (Hold up the leopard) We are just like this leopard that can't decide it wants to change its spots - We can't decide to not be sinners. We are so helpless we can't even decide to change our skin color. We can't change that we are sinners. The Bible says we all born speaking lies and deny that God is God, and that He does as He pleases on heaven and earth. We all lie, we all steal, and we all wish we had more than we have. We all are sinners. A perfect man is the only one that God will accept to take the punishment for our sins. Since we will never be or have a perfect human, (hold up the family picture again) we only can have sinners. God sent HIS Son to die for His people. A person is born not being able to see and understand the things of God, so do you think it is possible for a person to have a child that does? No, but with God - ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!



Mark 10:27

And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

