

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Chief Priests

from Matthew 21:23-32.



Jesus told the people to pay attention to what someone does, rather than just what someone says. Jesus told the people to act in love, like he did, rather than just talk big, like the chief priests.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Parable
- Action
- Obey
- Talk
- Change

The chief priests probably came from a group called the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin felt threatened by Jesus, and didn't believe in his authority because he was not ordained as a rabbi or accredited as a spiritual teacher.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 460-461

Spark Bible page 1085

Family Prayer

Loving Jesus, You know our hearts. You watch what we do, not just what we say. When we mess up, you help us want to do better. You give us another chance to do what's right. Thanks. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 When was a time you promised to do something, and then broke your promise? What did you do differently the next time?
- 2 Look at some advertisements in newspapers or magazines. Which companies/products say they are good, and which ones prove they are good? How do we find out?
- 3 Does Jesus give everyone another chance to do the right thing? Who did Jesus hang out with? Why?
- 4 What can we do for God? Play a game to think of things you can do by adding on to each other's ideas. Have someone start by saying, "If I were going to do something for God, I would..." then go around the circle allowing each person to add their ideas.



Eye Spark

Get out the art supplies and make a "Got action?" sign. Tape the sign to the inside of your door, so you will see it as you go out into God's world and prepare to show God's love through your actions.



Ear Spark

Flip around on the radio dial while you are in the car and locate a religious music station. Talk together about ways you can express your love for God through actions, like singing and playing instruments.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Jesus taught his followers that "It's not what you say; it's what you do." Make a chart with 3 action ideas that help others. For example: give away extra clothes, send a card to a church member who is ill, or volunteer at a food bank. Set a deadline to act out these three ideas with your family.

For younger kids

Young kids prefer actions to words. They are action experts! Encourage little ones to sing and play, twirl around, walk around the block, and make sandwiches for everyone in your family.

For older kids

Send older kids on a hunt around your home with a camera or camera phone to photograph places in need of action. Kids take action by sharing the photos with the whole family, and pitching in to help clean the dirty fridge, take out the trash, or help a younger sibling tidy up their toys.

