

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 153: A RENEWED HEART**  
**EZEKIEL 36:26-27**

I will also put a new spirit in you to change your way of thinking. I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh (body) and give you a tender human heart (a heart of flesh). I will put my Spirit inside you and change you so that it will cause you to obey my laws. You will carefully obey my judgments and you will do them.

**LESSON TIME!** (due to the lesson being so short, this is from the teacher's guide – activity in between is optional!)

Though Israel would surely be judged for their stubbornness and rebellion; God looks, once more, way into the future to the day of Israel's full restoration. In His love and grace, God would one day give the people of Israel a new heart, a soft heart, once responsive to His love and willing to listen and obey. They would walk in His Spirit! Today, God reaches out to us with grace we do not deserve—the promise of forgiveness, cleansing, and the promise that His Spirit will come and live inside us, giving us a new heart! [God will give us a brand new heart!](#)

We can note that the Lord said, "I will" 15 times in verses 24-38 of Ezekiel 36! In today's verses alone, He says, "I will" three times.

The basis for God's blessing was not to be on the "I wills" (the determination and good intentions) of the people, but because God willed to bless them, despite their failures and sin. God would bless them for His name's sake (36:22, 32). And, when God says, "I will," we can depend on it. God always keeps His promises!

The basis for God's blessing in our lives is always His grace, never our good deeds or efforts. Despite our weaknesses, failure, and disobedience, God is faithful to us, and His character and love for us remain consistent. He wants to do an amazing work in the lives of those who love Him for His name's sake—so that He might receive glory for the work He has done. [God will give us a brand new heart!](#) Why is it important that God gives us a new heart? In Jeremiah 17:9 it says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Before we ask Jesus into our hearts as Lord and Savior, we might not care if we lie a little bit, use bad language, or be unkind to our brothers and sisters. We think those things are not a big deal because everyone else is doing it. But when we become Christians, a new heart—a softer heart—is the first thing God gives us. Our hearts become willing to not only listen to God's Word but to obey it. We want to be kind those around us; we want to please God because we love Him and are thankful to Him. That's the picture of a heart of flesh vs. a heart of stone. Flesh is alive; stone is dead. When we walk in

fellowship with Jesus, allowing His Spirit to control, our hearts become alive to the things of God. **God will give us a brand new heart!**

### \*\*\*ACTIVITY TO DO BETWEEN VERSES\*\*\*

#### HIDDEN HEART –

Cut some hearts out (see template below) on card stock or thick stiff poster board paper and print out the memory verse on a blank white paper (see below) – Give each of the children the white paper with the memory verse on it. Explain, before we came to know Jesus, our hearts were like stone—hardened to the things of God. But when we come to Jesus, we receive a brand new heart. Ask the children to close their eyes (no peeking!). Now place one of the card stock hearts under their memory verse paper – make sure you put one under each child’s paper without them seeing what you are doing.

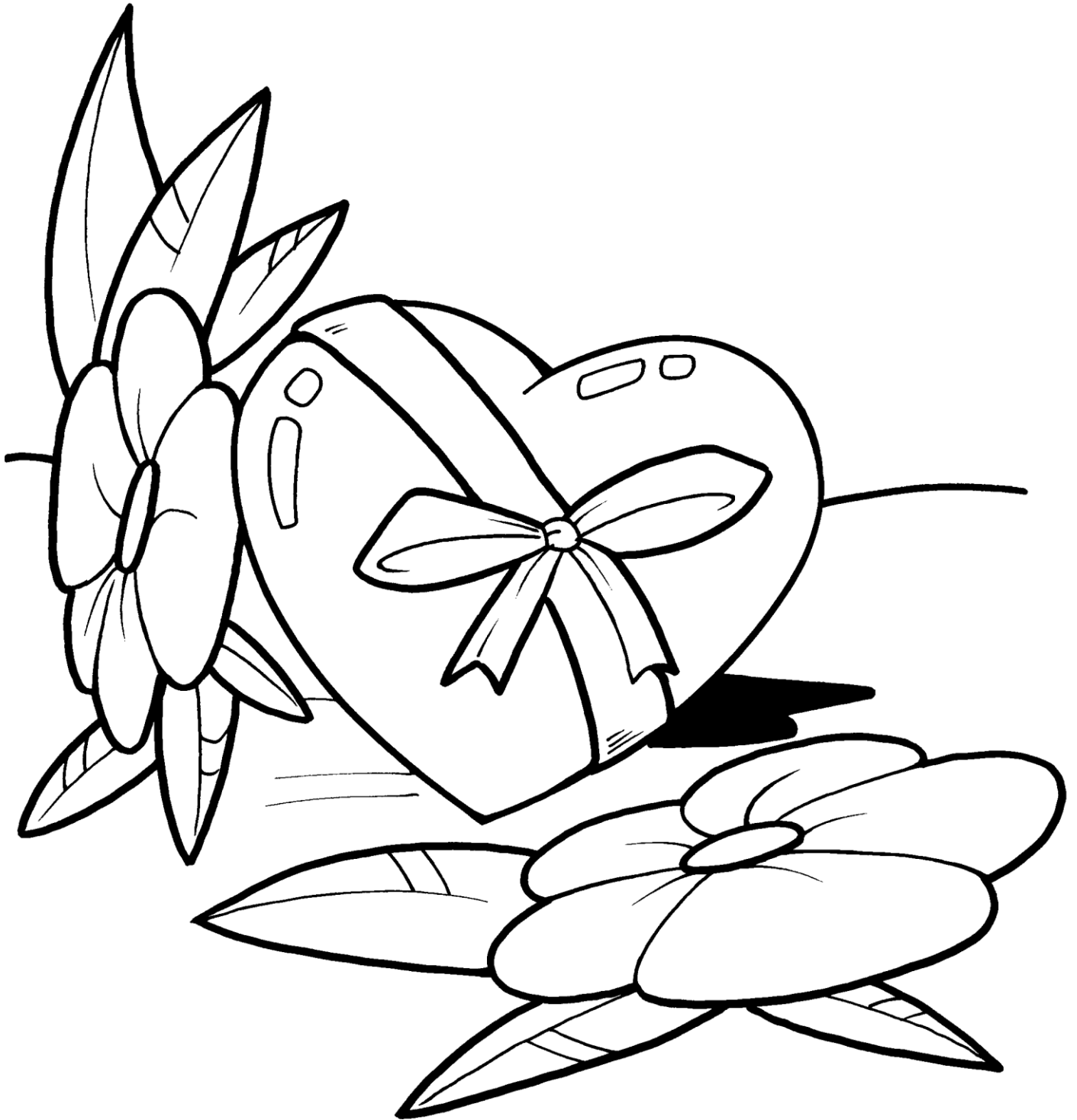
Ask the children to open their eyes and take a crayon (red is preferable); ask them to hold their paper down carefully and color over the paper. What do they see? Coloring should reveal the heart underneath. God wants to give each of us a brand new heart and replace that heart of stone!

#### EZ EKIEL 36:27

**"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.**

In the Old Testament, men did not have the Holy Spirit IN them; rather He came UPON them to do specific things that the Lord wanted them to do. God’s Holy Spirit came to rest on men for certain reasons at certain times. When Jesus came, He began to teach the disciples more about the work of the Holy Spirit (see John 14-16). The Holy Spirit would now come to live WITHIN them and give them power to live for God. In John 14:16 & 17 Jesus says, “And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” The Holy Spirit would lead the new church in truth (John 16:13), help His people to pray (Romans 8:26), and teach them about God (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit comforts His people. How wonderful it is that we have a helper right inside of us to help us to follow God’s plans for our lives and to help us to live for Him. He helps us to make good, right, pure, and noble choices. The Holy Spirit enables us to do what we cannot do for ourselves. II Corinthians 5:17 reads: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” We’re blessed when we ask Jesus to come into our lives. He gives us His Spirit to help us. Our strength to live a life that pleases God is no longer dependent on us—our strength is dependent on Him. God is glorified in our lives when the world sees, not what we are able to do, but what God by His Spirit and grace enables us to do. --- GOD WILL GIVE US A BRAND NEW HEART!

**153. A RENEWED HEART**  
**(EZEKIEL 36:26-27)**



“I will also put a new spirit in you to change your way of thinking. I will take out the heart of stone from your body and give you a tender, human heart.”

**EZEKIAL 36:26**

# 153. A RENEWED HEART

## EZEKIEL 36:26-27

### MEMORY VERSE:

*"I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you." EZEKIEL 36:26*

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. The LORD said, "I will give you a cold heart, and put a new spirit within you."  
TRUE or FALSE
2. The LORD said He would take the heart of stone out of our body and give us a tender, human heart. TRUE or FALSE
3. God said He would put HIS spirit within us. TRUE or FALSE
4. When He puts His spirit within us, it will cause us to obey His laws.  
TRUE or FALSE
5. Then He said, "But you will not keep My judgments nor will you do them."  
TRUE or FALSE

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Why does God want to give us a new heart? What is our old heart like? Is it like stone?
2. What do you think it means to have a heart like stone? Have you ever heard the saying, "A hard heart"?
3. What kind of heart does the LORD say He will give us?
4. What is He going to put within us after He gives us a new heart?
5. When He puts His spirit within us, and a new heart, does it make us want to obey Him?

## **Lesson 153 Activity**

### **Hidden Heart Memory Verse Activity**

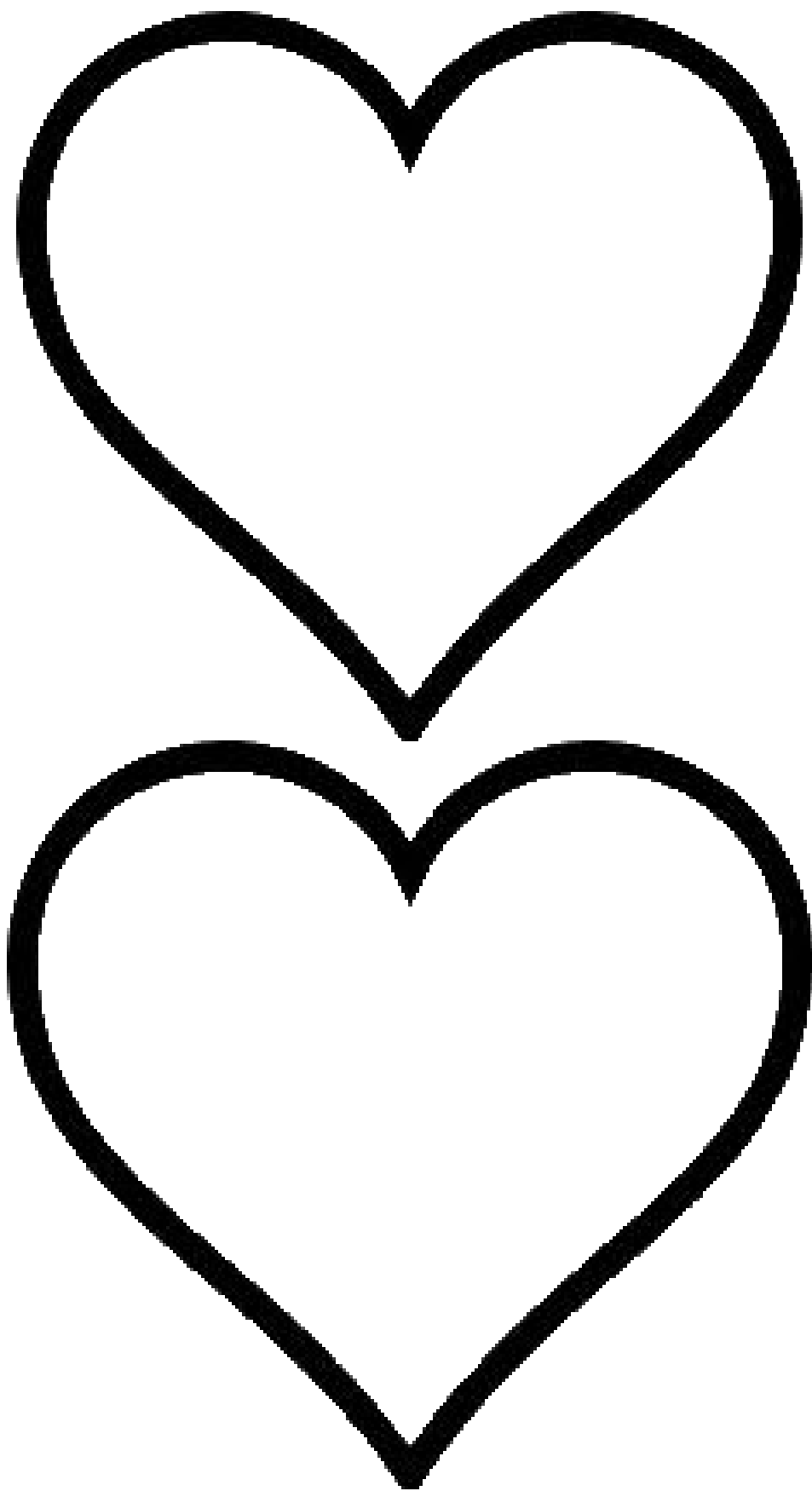
Use this game to work with the children on their memory verse.

You will need construction paper, scissors, a pen, and tape. Cut out several small hearts out of the red construction paper (fold paper in half & cut the heart shapes that way to make it easier). Write one or two words from today's memory verse on each heart with a marker. Before class, hide the hearts throughout the room. Then after all of the hearts are found, have the older ages see if they can put together the memory verse by taping the hearts in order on the chalkboard. For the younger ages, you can help out by showing the children where to tape and then read the memory verse to them, or you can put numbers above the words to help them put them in order.

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to follow Jesus and to thank the Lord for a brand new heart and the gift of His Holy Spirit who helps us to live for Him. If there are any children who havenot yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

## Heart Templates for Lesson 153



**I will give you a new heart, and  
put a new spirit within you.**

**Ezekiel 36:26**