



SCRIPTURE QUEST

MEMORY CHALLENGE

MATTHEW 11:5

"The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them."

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

John the Baptizer's mission was to prepare people's hearts for the Savior. Even though he lived in the wilderness and ate locusts (yuck!), people went out to hear his message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2)

Many people *did* repent—but not King Herod. Instead, the cruel ruler threw John in prison. Stuck in jail, the Baptizer wondered, *was Jesus really the Savior?* It was a reasonable question because John expected to be rescued. When his expectations went unmet, he doubted.

When it comes to confusion, fear and doubt, there are no bad questions—as long as we take them to Jesus! Which is exactly what John did: "[John] sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the [Savior] who is to come, or should we look for another?'" (Matthew 11:3)

Jesus wasn't offended by John's question. He wasn't disappointed or angry that John was unsure. Instead, He responded with proof of His identity: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (v 4-5).

Like John, you're going to experience unmet expectations. But also like John, you can take your questions to Jesus. His patience, perfect character, and unconditional love will never let you down.

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CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. What question would you like to ask Jesus right now?
2. Where should you go to find the answer?
(Hint, hint: your Bible, Mom, Dad, or someone in your life who follows Jesus!)

PRAYER



God, I have a lot of questions but I know you have the answers. Please help me go to Your Word or a trusted loved one to be reminded of who You are and how much You love me—especially when hard times come. Thank You for being trustworthy even when I don't understand. In Jesus' name, Amen.





SCRIPTURE QUEST

MEMORY CHALLENGE

MATTHEW 5:44-45

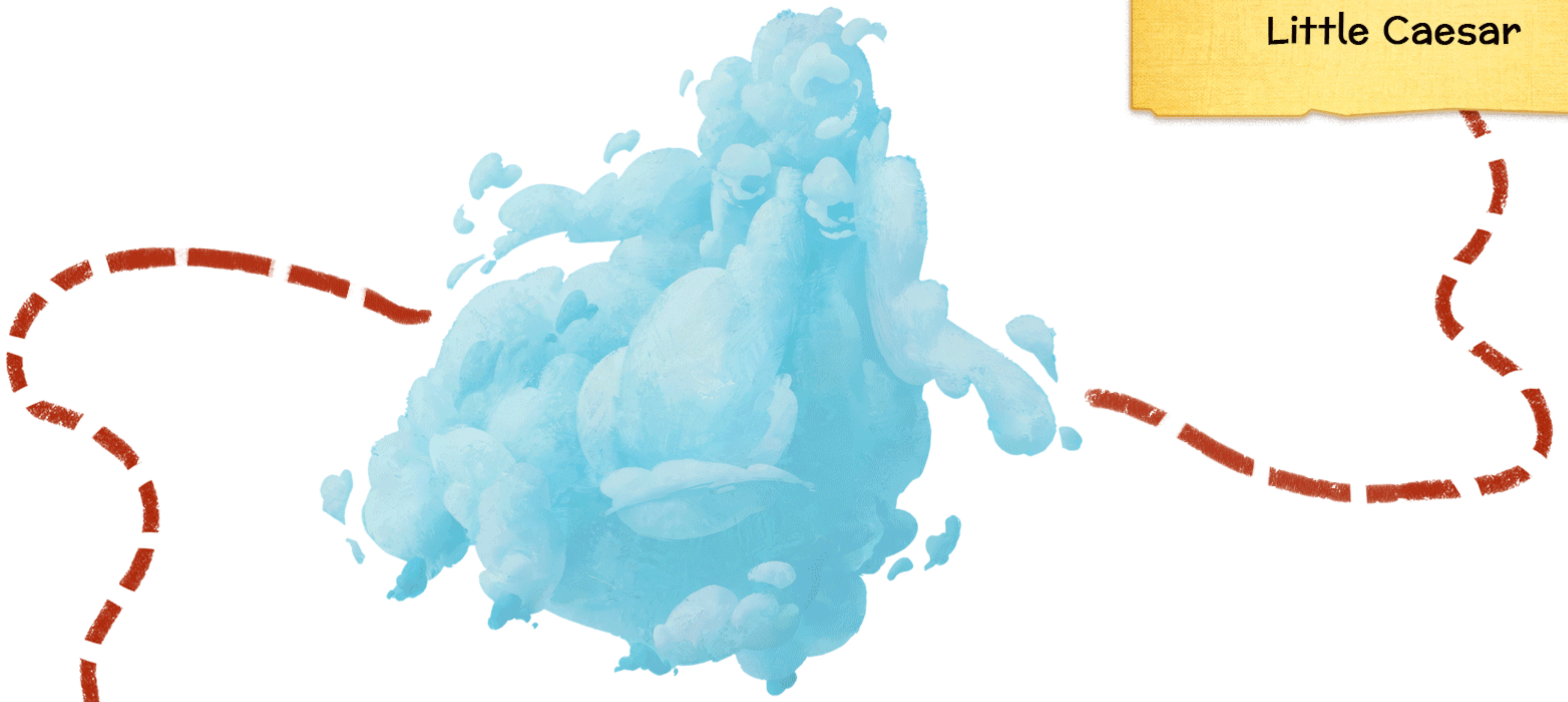
"Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven."

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

One day Jesus taught His followers a hard lesson: If you want to be like Jesus, love everyone. Including your enemies. YIKES...that's really hard. But Jesus wasn't asking His followers to do something He wasn't already doing. He was kind and gentle, and He prayed for His enemies even when they hung Him on a cross. "Jesus [was] taken to a place called the Skull. There the soldiers nailed [him] to his cross... Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing'" (Luke 23:33-34).

Even though Jesus is our example, loving our enemies can feel impossible...because it is impossible without God's help! That's the secret: you must rely on God's strength to love. The power and patience to love others who seem unlovable doesn't come from you; it comes from the One who is love (1 John 4:16). The One who saved you and is changing you from the inside out (Romans 8:29). The One who is making you more and more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

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CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. What person do you currently feel is your enemy?
2. What does Jesus' example teach you about loving others?
3. How can you obey God's instruction to show love to those who seem unlovable?

PRAYER



Dear God, I'm grateful for Your perfect love. And I am thankful for Your promise to help me love those who are hard to love. Forgive me when I am the one being unfriendly or mean. Help me to love—and live—more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.





SCRIPTURE QUEST

MEMORY CHALLENGE

MATTHEW 7:3-5

"Why do you notice the little piece of dust that is in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own eye? You are a hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly enough to take the dust out of your brother's eye."

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

Jesus used a funny illustration about a little speck of dust and a large log to reveal a problem we all have... weak "I" sight. Meaning, each of us tends to pay close attention to the small flaws in other people, while ignoring the big ones in ourselves. Jesus warned that when we're blind to our own sin we're hypocrites.

Hypocrites are people who pretend to make good choices when they sometimes don't. Hypocrites aren't honest with themselves or anyone else. Hypocrites allow sin to remain because they're not willing to repent or make the necessary changes to remove it. And so, hypocrites can't help other people because they're stuck in a mess of their own making. That's why Jesus instructs, "Take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly enough to take the dust out of your brother's eye" (Matthew 7:5).

So, how can you remove the log from your own eye and avoid being a hypocrite? By taking a long, hard look in the mirror. Not an actual mirror because, unlike giant logs, sin isn't something you can see on the outside. Instead, look into the mirror of God's Word and ask Him for help 1) to not judge others, 2) to see your own sin clearly, and 3) to repent of it and change. Then and only then will you be able to help those around you.

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CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. When you are tempted to criticize the flaws in others, what should you do instead?
2. How is God's Word like a mirror?
3. Talk about some things in your life that need to change.

PRAYER

Dear God, I confess there are times when I'm more focused on other people's flaws than I am on my own. I'm sorry. Please help me see my sin, and to repent of it and change. In Jesus' name, Amen.

