

THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET

PURPOSE

To illustrate the power of the atonement of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from sin

MATERIALS

- A glass of water
- An eye dropper
- Several drops of food coloring
- Several drops of bleach

LESSON

- 1. Ask what a "stain" is. (A soiling or discoloring that is difficult to remove.) Ask why they think that sins are sometimes compared to stains. (Both sins and stains can be difficult to remove.)
- 2. Explain that both stains and sin <u>can</u> be removed, but something powerful is needed to remove them.
- 3. Object lesson:
 - a. Pour several drops of the food coloring into the glass of water. Stir. Explain that the water is now stained.
 - b. Put several drops of bleach into the glass of colored water. Stir. (The stain should entirely disappear so that water is clear again.)
- 4. Explain that the atonement of Jesus Christ is powerful stain remover.
 - a. Read Isaiah 1:18. Explain that "scarlet" is a bright red and "crimson" is a deep red. Testify that Jesus has promised us that His atonement has the power to remove the stain of sin from our lives.
- 5. You may want to share one of the quotes below:
 - a. President Boyd K. Packer: "I repeat, save for the exception of the very few who defect to perdition, there is no habit, no addiction, no rebellion, no transgression, no apostasy, no crime exempted from the promise of complete forgiveness. That is the promise of the atonement of Christ" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, p. 20).
 - b. President Boyd K. Packer: "Those who make one serious mistake tend to add another by assuming that it is then too late for them. It is never too late! Never! The discouraging idea that a mistake (or even a series of them) makes it everlastingly too late, does not come from the Lord. He has said that if we will repent, not only will He forgive us our transgressions, but He will forget them and remember our sins no

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more. Repentance is like soap; it can wash sin away. Ground-in dirt may take the strong detergent of discipline to get the stains out, but out they will come" (*Ensign*, May 1989, 59).

6. Testify that the atonement has great power, through our repentance, to remove sin.

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