

2.27 A SON IS RECONCILED TO HIS FATHER

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: Reconciliation between Son and Father 3E. Reconciliation and Peace-making

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When asked to define reconciliation, students will say it is a change of relation from enmity to peace.

Attitude: Students will choose to make friends out of those they have called enemies.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Exercise book

Scripture:

References: Luke 15:11-24

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends."

II Corinthians 5:18

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Sometimes you hear people say that they have an enemy. Who do you think an enemy might be?
2. Is it possible to overcome an enemy peacefully?

Bible Story:

3. Jesus told a story to help us understand that we can make friends out of enemies. Listen to this story from Luke 15:11-24.

Suggested Discussion Questions

4. Why do you think the younger son asked his father for his share of the property?
5. Why do you think the father gave it to him?
6. What did the son do with this property?
7. When the son was hungry, who did he decide to go see? How was he going to identify himself?
8. When the son arrived home, how was he received?

Application:

9. What would you suggest you should do if someone chooses to treat you wrongly?

Evaluation:

10. Who will give you the strength to do the right thing?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. An enemy is someone who opposes you or fights against you.
2. Make a friend out of your enemy.

Bible Story:

3. The son and father were reconciled to each other. Reconciliation means a change of relation from enmity to peace.

Possible Answers to Questions:

4. He didn't want to wait until his father passed away. Maybe he thought he would get more now.
5. He wanted to honor his son's choice.
6. He sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He used it unwisely.
7. When he ran out of money and was hungry, he remembered his father's workers were cared for. Going back to his father, he felt unworthy to be called his son. He would be a worker.
8. The father saw him coming and ran to meet him and warmly welcomed him home.

Application:

9. Tell him you're sorry if you have treated him wrongly. Treat him like a friend.

Evaluation:

10. Christ who has reconciled us to God

Extension Activities

1. Have students write their new memory verse into their Memory Verse Exercise book: "All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends." II Corinthians 5:18
2. In their exercise books, have students write at the top "Living Out Our Faith". Underneath write: "Reconciliation". Beneath that, write: "making friends out of enemies".
3. Role-Playing: Friends and Enemies. Have students make two lines facing each other. Identify the students on one line as being As and the other line as being Bs. Then pair off (an A and a B). In the first scenario, As and Bs are good friends. Give them 30 seconds to role play how they would treat each other.
A cuts ahead of B in line. How does B react?
A calls B a jerk (a bad name). How does B react?
Next, do some more role plays when A and B are enemies. You can do the same two or use these suggestions:
B asks A to play a game. How does A react?
B borrows A's pen and accidentally breaks it. How does A react?
Take time for some discussion. These suggested questions can get you started.
Do we react differently to friends than enemies. In what ways? Why?
Do we have to treat enemies with meanness even if we don't like them?
If we were trying to reconcile with each other, how could we act to make the enemy become a friend?

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

Jesus often used stories to help people understand the point He was trying to teach. Those stories are called parables. This story is often called "The Prodigal Son" or "The Lost Son".

1. A father had two sons. The younger son asked his dad to give him now his share of the land he would plan to give him later in life.
2. The son couldn't wait to get out on his own so he sold the land that was to be his and left home with the money.
3. He did bad things and spent all of the money in a short time.
4. There was no rain and therefore no crops which meant there was no food for the young man. He tried to work for a farmer feeding his pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat what the pigs were being fed.
5. The young man got to thinking that the men who worked for his dad had plenty to eat. He should go back home but he didn't think he was worthy of being called a son. He would admit to his father that he had sinned. He would ask him to treat him as one of his workers. So he started home.
6. His father spotted him coming when he was still a long way off. He ran to meet him. He was so glad to see him. He threw his arms around him.

7. The son tried to tell him that he had sinned against God and against his dad and that he was no longer fit to be called his son. But the father was so glad to see him, he gave his son a very good robe, put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet and called people together to celebrate that his son had come home. He was lost and now was found.
8. Reconciliation took place between father and son.

Key Point

Turning enemies (people we don't like or people who are opposed to us) into friends is a good way to make peace. We call that reconciliation. Life is much happier when we live in harmony with one another. Through Christ's work on the cross, we are reconciled with God which then gives us a stronger ability to become reconciled with one another.

Teacher Evaluation

Am I guilty of holding some people as people I don't like or as enemies? What do I need to do to turn them into friends, to become reconciled with one another? As a teacher, how can I help these students to work through their differences so they turn out being friends?