

Lesson 4.12- Jacob Becomes a Friend of God: Forgiveness and Restitution

Topic: Peace in the Family

Subtopic: 3C Reconciliation and Peacemaking

Class: IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** When asked what Jacob did to make peace with Esau, students will answer correctly.

Attitude: Students will forgive others who hurt them and will try to make things right when they hurt someone else (restitution).

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: Genesis 32:1-21; 33:1-11

Memory Verse: Mark 11:25

Teacher Activities

Introduction: Ask students if they have used Active Listening this week. Review the story of Jacob.

Bible Story: Tell the story about Jacob making peace with Esau.

Application: Write *forgiveness* on the board and explain how it is an important part of peacemaking. Illustrate what forgiveness means using a cup and three rocks. *Restitution.* Discuss what restitution is. Do roleplays or a Think-Pair-Share activity.

Evaluation: Is there anyone you, personally, need to forgive? Do students understand the importance of forgiveness?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students share examples of times they used Active Listening. They tell what they remember about Jacob.

Bible Story: Listen to a story and learn how Jacob became a Friend of God by making peace with Esau.

Application: Students participate in a discussion and illustration about forgiveness. Students think of ways to make restitution.

Evaluation: When asked how Jacob and Esau made peace students will answer correctly:

- Came to Esau peacefully-bowed down
- Gave gifts to Esau to make restitution
- Esau forgave Jacob

Do students ask forgiveness and try to make things right if they have hurt someone else?

Extension Activities:

Share a Story of Forgiveness: Meshack Mudamba, a Kenyan evangelist, was visiting and counseling in a village meeting. The following Sunday, a large number of people gathered for worship. The service opened with the invitation for people to share their experiences of the past week. One older gentleman walked to the front of the church. When he faced the group, he invited his wife to come stand with him. Then he began to tell what God had been showing him

during the week. He said that twenty-five years ago he and his wife had had a misunderstanding. "For twenty-five years I have made sure she has headscarves and dresses and other things she needs but God has shown me that I have not been giving her love. I've asked her to stand with me this morning to let you know that we have resolved our differences and forgiven one another." They shook hands to seal their change of heart and sat down. After some quiet moments, the Presiding Clerk got up and walked over to where the man was sitting. He asked him to please stand. Then he looked him in the eye and said, "For twenty-five years I have held a grudge toward you because of the way you have mistreated your wife. Today I need to ask your forgiveness." They too sat down. From the back of the room, another person got up and walked to the other side of the room. He asked someone to stand and they forgave each other for some problem they had between them and they sat down. From another area of the room, another person rose and went to another person to ask forgiveness. One after another people met with another with whom they had held a grudge. That church had been bound with conflict and grudges. It could not move forward until people were willing to admit the part in the conflict they had played and offered their forgiveness to the other. *Quaker Connection*: Meshack Mudanmba was an evangelistic in the Friends Church in Kenya.

Memory Verses: Work on the new verse, Mark 11:25. Have the students study it for a few minutes and then try writing it in their Exercise book without looking at it. They then check to see if they wrote it correctly. Have them say the verse to a partner to see if they can say it correctly. Review verses from previous lessons.

Notes for Teacher

This lesson continues the story of Jacob and shows how his heart toward Esau has changed.

Key Idea: Forgiveness and restitution are important for peacemaking.

Bible Story:

Jacob and Esau. **Jacob had made peace with his father-in-law but now he still had to meet his brother Esau. Messengers came and said Esau was coming with 400 men. How do you think Jacob reacted?** (He was very much afraid of Esau. He was afraid there would be a war.) **What do you think Jacob should do?** (Encourage the students to give their ideas of how Jacob could make peace with his brother.)

Jacob divided his people and livestock in two groups. He thought if Esau attacked one group, maybe the other group would get away. Jacob prayed and asked God to help him and then he decided to try giving Esau a present as a way to make peace. He chose 220 goats, 220 sheep, 30 camels, 50 cows and bulls, 30 donkeys. He divided them in herds and told the servants to take them to Esau and tell him they are gifts from Jacob and Jacob is coming behind us. How do you think Esau will react to the gifts?

That night someone attacked Jacob and he wrestled with the man. The man was really a messenger from God. Jacob refused to let the man go until he blessed him. So the man said, "Your name used to be Jacob but now your name will be Israel which means "he struggles with God." You have struggled with men and with God and you have won so your name will be Israel from now on."

The next morning Jacob, now called Israel, saw Esau coming. He ran out and bowed before Esau but Esau ran to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. Esau said, "Who are all these women and children?" Israel (Jacob) said, "They are mine." Then

Esau said, “What about all those animals?” Israel said, “They were a gift to you. I wanted to gain your favor.”

Esau said, “I have enough, my brother, keep what you have.”

Israel said, “No, please. If I have gained your favor, accept these animals as a gift and a sign of my friendship. God has been good to me and I have everything I need.” Esau accepted the gift and the two brothers parted as friends.

Has Jacob changed? (Yes, he wants to be friends with his brother.)

How did Jacob try to show he wanted to be friends? (He made a covenant with Laban. He sent gifts to his brother. He came as a friend, bowing down to him, not with weapons.)

Esau forgave Jacob for all the wrongs Jacob had done to him. Forgiveness is an important part of peacemaking. God forgives us for our sins and we have to be willing to forgive other people.

Jacob’s heart has changed. He is now God’s friend and he wants to do what is right. God gave him a new name to show that he is a different person than he used to be. What is Jacob’s new name? (Israel) **Where have you heard that name before?** (It is the name of the country of Israel.) **The descendants of Jacob are known as Jews or ISRAELITES. The Jews scattered all over the world but in 1948 the United Nations gave the Jews a little bit of land in the same area where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived. This land is called Israel because Jacob is the father of all the Jews.**

Esau also had many children. He settled in what is now Jordan near Mt. Seir. In the Bible it says that God gave this land to Esau just as he gave Israel to Jacob’s family.

Application: *Forgiveness.* Write the word FORGIVENESS on the board and ask if they know what it means. **It means to let go of anger, hurt and expectations. Let go of revenge.** When we forgive we are being a friend of God because God tells us we must forgive others as he has forgiven us.

What kinds of things do brothers and sisters sometimes do to each other that could make the other person feel angry or hurt? Let them give examples. **Parents even say and do some things that hurt us. We must forgive the people in our family if we want God to forgive us. Forgiveness doesn’t mean that what they did was right or okay but it means you are not going to hang onto your anger about it. You are not going to try to hurt them back.**

Sometimes anger and hurt about something that happened a long time ago has caused wars because people want to hurt someone who hurt them. When we do that we are not friends with God and what we are doing is just as bad as what the other person did. God told us to forgive and if we are His friends we must obey.

It is not easy to forgive but you can do it if you remember that God forgives you. (You may want to use the illustration in the optional activities at this time.)

Illustration of Forgiveness. (Note: This is adapted from an illustration the author first saw at a Joan Hunter conference. It is a helpful way to understand forgiveness.) Take a box or cup and put 3 rocks in it. Have one person hold that box. **The box represents the person who hurt you. The rocks represents the sin they did.** Another person stands nearby with their arms out like the cross. They represent Jesus’ cross. Explain that **the person who sinned and the sin itself are two different things. You need to pray that God would take the sin and put it on the cross** –take a rock out of the box and put it in the hand of the “cross” person. Then say, **“You can hate the sin but you must forgive the person. Remember that God forgives sins and**

loves the person. God took your sin from you and put it on the cross – take another rock and put it on the cross. The cross can separate you from your sin so God can love you and hate your sin. You need to do the same thing for others. Separate the sin from the person. You can hate what the person did but don't hate the person. Forgive the person. Take the third rock and put it in the hand of the cross person. **Put the sin on the cross and let Jesus deal with and then you can forgive the person.**

Peacemaking requires us to forgive those who hurt us and make friends of those we have hurt. How did Jacob try to make friends with his brother? (He sent gifts and messages to let him know he wanted to be friends.) **How did he try to make up for the things he had stolen from his brother?** (He gave him generous gifts of livestock.) **When we have hurt someone we need to ask the other person to forgive us and try to make it right if we can.**

Restitution. If you do something that hurts someone else, just saying you are sorry is not always enough. Write the word *restitution* on the board. *Restitution* is when you do something to make up for a wrong you did. Jacob had stolen from his brother. He gave Esau gifts to show that he was sorry. These students have done things that hurt someone else. What can they do to make it right? Act it out or do Think-pair-share.

- Serra borrowed her sister's sweater without asking. While she was wearing it, the sweater got torn.
- Simeon was fighting with his brother. He caused his brother to fall and hurt his arm.
- Heather thought that Marla was not being a friend anymore so she told two other girls in her class a lie about Marla. She said that Marla had said mean things about them.
- Joseph brought his lunch to school in a brown bag. Rasoah had not had any breakfast and he was hungry so he stole Joseph's lunch. Joseph saw him with a brown bag and said that Rasoah had stolen his lunch but Rasoah said, "No, this is my lunch."
- Leunita was hurrying to be first in line. She accidentally hit Adah in the eye with her elbow and Adah is crying.