

Lesson 7.29 – Jesus Models Forgiveness

Topic: Conflict Management
Subtopic: Forgiveness
1B. Jesus Christ, God the Son
3E. Peace and Reconciliation

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know that forgiveness is possible because Jesus forgave us. **Attitude:** Students will want to forgive those who hurt them.

Materials Needed:
Blackboard and Chalk
Exercise book

References: Matthew 26:36-41; Matthew 26:47-50; Matthew 26:69-70; Matthew 27:26-31; Luke 23:34, 46; Isaiah 9:6-7

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1

Teacher Activities

Introduction: *Worship.* Start with one or more songs and silent prayer. Try to create a quiet, reflective, worshipful atmosphere.

Bible Story: After each passage is read, ask the questions in the Teacher's Notes. Some questions may be too personal to answer outloud but wait 3-4 minutes to give students time to think about the questions and create a reflective attitude. Invite comments as the students think of them.

Application: Draw a diagram on the board with the cross in the middle of the board and a person on one side and a circle with SIN on the other. Explain how forgiveness separates our feelings about the person from our feelings about the sin. We can hate what someone did and still love and forgive the person. That is what Jesus does for us.

Evaluation: Are you modeling peacemaking and forgiveness? Have your students grown in their understanding of what it means to be a peacemaker?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students lead the songs and prayer time.

Bible Story: Readers read the following passages. Pausing after each passage to answer questions and share comments.

Matthew 26:36-41
Matthew 26:47-50
Matthew 26:69-70
Matthew 27:26-31
Luke 23:34, 46
Isaiah 9:6-7

Application: Students write a reflection in their journal about the verses and the discussion. Is there someone they need to forgive? Do they need to ask someone for forgiveness?

Evaluation: Are students able to relate the feelings Jesus had at the crucifixion? Are they able to let go of anger and forgive others?

Extension Activities: *If you have extra time,* you might want to close with another song and prayer. *Feelings.* Some of the things brought up in this lesson may stir strong feelings in students. Try to be available to talk to students if they need to share. Read their journals and note

if there are any students who seem to need to talk about their feelings. Then make time to see them alone if possible. *Review.* Review skills from previous lessons such as the problem solving steps, I-statements, negotiation and mediation. *Memory Verse.* This week's memory verse summarizes the freedom we have in Jesus. Discuss the phrase "no condemnation".

Notes for Teacher

We are going to look again at the story of Jesus' crucifixion. This time we will look at the feelings Jesus probably had and consider when we have had similar feelings. This is the last story about Jesus, the Model Peacemaker. (Next week is a review lesson.)

Key Points: Jesus has shown us how live in peace even in a violent world. He calls us to a costly kind of peacemaking that requires forgiveness and reconciliation but He rewards us with an eternal kingdom of peace.

Introduction: It is important to create a worshipful attitude for this lesson. It is suggested that you begin with one or two songs and time of silent prayer before you start the Bible story. Pause after each Bible reading and give students time to reflect on the questions even if they don't want to answer outloud.

Bible Story:

Matthew 26:36-41

- How is Jesus feeling here? (grief, anguish, let down by His friends)
- Have you ever felt let down by your friends when you needed them? What was that like? (Students may not want to answer outloud but give them time to think about the question. If they do want talk about it, tell them to say "someone" instead of their friend's name. Give plenty of time reflection.)

Matthew 26:47-50

- Judas had been one of Jesus' closest friends. What does He do here? (Betrays Jesus by pointing out to the soldiers which one is Jesus.)
- Jesus knows they are going to kill Him. How does He react? (He is not afraid. He tells them to hurry up and do it.)
- Have you ever had a friend turn against you and betray you? What was that like?

Matthew 26:69-70

- Peter is one of Jesus' closest friends. What does he do? (Denies he ever knew Jesus.)
- How would you feel if you were in a tough situation and your best friend denied they even knew you?

Matthew 27:26-31

- Jesus had done nothing wrong but Pilate had Him whipped and then his soldiers mocked Jesus and made fun of Him.
- What is it like to have someone make fun of you?
- How would it feel to be beaten for something you didn't do?

Luke 23:34, 46

- They were fighting over Jesus' belongings. How would you feel if someone stole from you?
- Jesus forgave all these people even though they had done all these things to Him.

- Jesus came to bring forgiveness and reconciliation to God. He modeled how to do this in His life and in His death. His death on the cross made it possible for us to be forgiven and reconciled to God. His life showed us how to live as peacemakers in the world. His resurrection made it possible for the Holy Spirit to live with us and guide us in this peace making process.

Application: Use the illustration below to help students understand that forgiveness means that in our minds we separate the person from their sins. We may hate the sin but forgive the person.

Illustration. Draw a cross in the middle of the Board. Draw a person on one side of the cross and a circle with the word SIN on the other side.

When someone does the things people did to Jesus it is not easy to forgive them. The reason Jesus could forgive them and us is because He could separate the sin from the person. He hated what they were doing but He loved the people who were doing it. He hated the fact that Peter denied he even knew Him. He hated it that Peter and His other friends fell asleep when Jesus needed them. However, Jesus loved Peter. He could hate the sin but still love Peter. The cross separates sin from the person. If we take our sins to the cross by confessing that what we did was wrong and we turn away from sinning, then Jesus can love us and still hate our sin. That is why He can forgive us. The sin stays at the cross and we go free.

When we find peace with God, we know He loves us and we want to share that love with others by forgiving them. You can do this same thing for others that Jesus did for you. You can hate what they did but you can't hate the person. (If you do, God cannot forgive you.) You must separate in your mind, the person's sin and the person themselves. When you say you forgive someone you are not saying what they did was okay. You may hate what they did, but you put that sin on the cross and let Jesus deal with it instead of getting revenge, hating the person or expecting the person to repent and apologize.

As we read all those things they did to Jesus, maybe you remembered something someone has done to you. Can you forgive them? If you don't, your anger can cause you to hurt others. Maybe, instead, you remembered something you have done that hurt someone else. Do you need to go to them and ask for forgiveness? Peacemakers walk in forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with others.

Journal writing. Have the students spend 5 minutes thinking about the verses that were read and what we talked about today. Then have them write their thoughts and feelings in their journal.