



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Gave Himself for Me
Winter Year 1, Lesson 46

Peter Denies Jesus

Bible Event: Mark 14:66-72

Take Home Point: *JESUS KNOWS MY MISTAKES— *Jesus forgives me.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus has the power to forgive me because he died on the cross in my place.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that we all make mistakes. Even Jesus' very best friends—the disciples—made mistakes and sinned. Jesus still loved them and forgave them. Just like his disciples, Jesus knows we make mistakes and sin, but he still loves and forgives us too. Kids will take home the point: **JESUS KNOWS MY MISTAKES—*Jesus forgives me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's Word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Veggie Tales, *God Wants Me to Forgive Them?* Big Idea Productions. 1994

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit From The Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat, and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: Last week you heard about Jesus praying in the garden and then being arrested and taken away. It was a very sad time. While Jesus was being held prisoner, one of his disciples, Peter, made a mistake.

Peter was waiting with a group of people to see what was going to happen to Jesus. They were all standing around a fire waiting to see what was going to happen. (Light three candles taped together, or show a picture of a campfire.) While they were waiting, a little girl came up to him and said, "You know that Jesus, don't you?" Peter was afraid. He did not want to get arrested, too, so he said, "No, I don't know who you're talking about." Right after he said this, a rooster crowed, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" (Show a stuffed or plastic rooster.)

Peter kept warming himself by the fire, where a bunch of people and soldiers were standing. The little girl came up to him again and told everyone standing there, "He is one of them. He knows Jesus." Again Peter said, "I don't know him."

After a while, some more people standing there looked at Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them. Aren’t you one of Jesus’ disciples?” For the third time, Peter said, “I do not know this man you are talking about.” Right after Peter said this, the rooster crowed again, “Cock-a-doodle-doo.” (Show rooster.)

As soon as the rooster crowed, Peter realized what he had done. He had denied knowing Jesus three times. He felt worse than horrible. He hid his head in his hood. (Pull hood up.) Then he remembered that Jesus had predicted this would happen. Just a few days before this, Jesus had told Peter that before the rooster crowed twice, Peter would say that he didn’t know Jesus three times. And that’s exactly what happened. Peter felt so badly that he ran off and cried and cried. (Show Kleenex or handkerchief.)

This was a very sad event from the Bible. But though Peter had sinned against Jesus, Jesus still forgave him! When we sin and feel bad about it, Jesus will still love us and forgive us, too. That is how amazing Jesus’ love is. He died on the cross (Show cross.) so that we would be forgiven of our sins. Remember: *JESUS KNOWS MY MISTAKES – Jesus forgives me.****

Pray with the children, having them repeat each phrase.

Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
He died just for me. (repeat)
He forgives me. (repeat)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Let the children create a rooster's face. Provide vanilla wafers for the base, mini chocolate chips for eyes, candy corn for beaks, and red licorice whips, nubs, or fruit roll-ups to make the head tufts and waddles. Allow the children to be creative.

Drama Zone: Provide a fake campfire, stuffed or plastic rooster and dress-up clothes for the children to reenact the scene.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to talk about mistakes that we make and how Jesus forgives us.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Peter from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #149, "Peter Denies Knowing Jesus" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Have children draw a cross on white paper using white crayon. Then allow children to watercolor the entire paper any color or design they want. The crayon cross will show through. Attach a pre-made label "Jesus' forgiveness shines through."

Play Zone: Play "Duck, Duck, Goose" using the words "I don't know you, I don't know you, I know you."

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Peter denying Jesus.

Coloring Zone: "Peter Denies Jesus" coloring page

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Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes out feeling bad. She was at a sleepover last night and her mom and dad had to come pick her up this morning so she could come to church. The other kids were going to stay and watch cartoons and eat donuts. The other kids started to make fun of Judy while she was getting ready to leave and they said, "Do you really like going to church? Do you really believe in that Jesus stuff?" Judy didn't want them to make fun of her any more, so she said that she didn't really believe it.

The problem is that Judy really does believe in Jesus and she feels very bad now. She loves Jesus and she doesn't think that she can ever be forgiven. The presenter explains that we all sin. We should feel bad about it and try not to do it any more; but Jesus knows we sin and he forgives us. Even we're not perfect, he loves us anyway.

The presenter goes on to explain that in today's Bible story, one of Jesus' best friends even sinned! The presenter lets the kids help explain the story to Judy. Judy still feels bad about what she said, but she feels better that she is forgiven. The presenter reminds her that Jesus' love is amazing! ***JESUS KNOWS MY MISTAKES – Jesus forgives me.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video: *Veggie Tales: God Wants Me to Forgive Them?*—order from http://www.parable.com/parable/item_5559719021.htm or from: <http://store.yahoo.net/yhst-54787164184156/godwametofot.html>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Traveler's backpack gear
 - candles
 - matches or lighter
 - picture of a campfire
 - stuffed or plastic rooster
 - kleenex or handkerchief

Action Zones:

Snack:

- vanilla wafers
- mini chocolate chips
- candy corn
- red licorice whips or fruit roll ups

Craft:

- white paper
- white crayons
- water colors
- labels: "Jesus' forgiveness shines through"

Play:

- Duck, Duck, Goose Game – new arrangement

Drama:

- fake campfire
- stuffed or plastic rooster
- dress up clothes

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books.

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Felt:

- materials to show story

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books