



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Fall Year 1, Lesson 17

Even When We Aren't Perfect, God Still Loves and Forgives Us

Primary Scripture: Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us while we were still sinners."

Key Verse: Romans 5:8a, "Christ died for us while we were yet sinners..."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids regularly experience times of failure and mistakes. Many children are afraid of getting in trouble despite their best efforts. Though we want to encourage our kids to give their best efforts (especially their best for the Lord), it is important to know that God gives us forgiveness through the merits of his Son, Jesus. Kids need to be ready to bring their mistakes and failures to the foot of the cross and receive his forgiveness.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we have the confidence of his forgiveness.

Jesus in us: It is Jesus' power that allows us to give our very best in serving others.

Jesus through us: We can offer the message of Jesus' forgiveness to others, as well.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *"Hot seat." Wrap foil around two hand receivers from old phones. Attach the phone cords from the hand receivers to the back of the chair. A child sitting on the chair will hold a phone receiver in each hand and the wires connected to the back of the chair will give the appearance that the child is wired to the chair.*

Ask for a volunteer to come forward and sit in the "hot seat." Ask the volunteer the following questions and pretend to zap him after each of his answers.

How well did you do this week? Did you get all your homework done on time with all the questions answered correctly? Did you answer your parents respectfully each time they asked you to do something? Did you pick up all your stuff in your room every day? Did you say only kind words to a brother or sister? Did you remember to pray every day for someone who needs help?

I guess you were not perfect this week. So what are you doing in church? Isn't church for perfect people?

Ask the audience:

Does God think church is for only perfect people? No. God accepts us the way we are. He wants us to come to church so he can help us with our faults and our failures. We can receive Jesus' perfect love and forgiveness so we can change to become more like him. In

church, we can also receive encouragement from others who need forgiveness just like us.

Let's praise God in song today for his unconditional love for us.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies

- sheet unfolded on the stage
- four note cards printed with the following directions:
 1. Run out of the room
 2. Hide under the sheet
 3. Say out loud, "I didn't do it. He did it." (Point to someone in the audience.),
 4. Say out loud, "I admit I have sinned. Jesus, I need your forgiveness!"

What are some of the things we might choose to do when we have made a mistake? I need four volunteers from the audience to help give an example of these directions.

The first volunteer is handed the note card that reads, "**Run out of the room.**" Have the child read it to himself and follow the directions. Ask the audience to guess what this volunteer's reaction was to a mistake he made that we sometimes also choose to do. (We deal with our faults by running away from them.)

Give the second volunteer the card that reads, "**Hide under the sheet.**" Have the children guess that we can hide from our faults and pretend they don't exist.

Give the third volunteer a card that reads, "**Say out loud, 'I didn't do it. He did it.' (Point to someone in the audience.)**" Have the audience conclude that this reaction is denying our faults and blaming others.

The final volunteer is given the card that reads, "**Say out loud, 'I admit I have sinned. Jesus, I need your forgiveness!'**"

Through Jesus' life given for us we can give to him all of our faults. We don't have to run away from Jesus. We don't have to hide. We don't have to blame others. Instead, we can give our faults to him.

Read Romans 5:8.

“Christ died for us while we were still sinners.”

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *candy bar*

Have a child come up to receive the gift of a candy bar. While he is returning to his seat say:

Oh, by the way, you can pay me back for the candy bar next week.

I guess that wasn't a gift after all.

Ask the children:

What are some gifts God gives us? Does he ask us to pay him back for these gifts? No. God does not ask us to give him paybacks. He asks us to give to him to show we trust him. As you bring forward your offerings today, remember that we give back to God as a gift to him, not as a payback or a due that we owe him.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- *half sheet of paper with Colossians 3:23, 24 written on it, "Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans...It is Christ, your real master, whom you are serving."*
- *sheet of paper for each pair of children*

Hold the half sheet of paper for a child to grab before it drops through his fingers. See if any children are quick enough to grab the sheet of paper before it is dropped. Children can partner up with each other to test their skills using regular sheets of paper.

We should try with all of our might and do our very best in all that we do, just as if we are doing it for Jesus. There are times when we do make mistakes. Does that mean God no longer loves us? Of course not. The Bible also says that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We need to continue to do our best and truly be sorry for our sins and try to correct them. It is the power of God's love that finally catches us and holds us. God never lets us slip through his fingers.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

- *video by Focus On the Family Films titled Adventures In Odyssey: A Fine Feathered Frenzy (1992)— www.christianbooks.com*

This 32-minute video will demonstrate a boy who has made a mistake but owns up to his responsibility in making it better. He learns that he should do his very best, as if he is doing it for the Lord.

The video does not, however, have a clear presentation of the gospel. The gospel can be taught through asking the following.

What would it be like if God were like the lady who was at first so unforgiving?

We would probably be scared and afraid. But God loves us and wants to forgive us so much, he sent his Son, Jesus, to take on our punishment for the wrong things we do. God gives us the power of his forgiveness offered through Jesus so we can do our very best. We can, in turn, forgive others when we realize how much God forgave us.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Share how God answered your prayers or helped you this last week.

Wrap up the sharing time by pointing out that we don't earn these blessings from God. Rather, he gives them because he loves us.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- a “hot seat”—wrap foil around two hand receivers from old phones; attach the phone cords from the hand receivers to the back of the chair; a child sitting on the chair will hold a phone receiver in each hand and the wires connected to the back of the chair will give the appearance that the child is wired to the chair

The Power of the Cross:

- sheet unfolded on the stage
- four note cards printed with the following responses:
 1. Run out of the room
 2. Hide under the sheet
 3. Say out loud, “I didn’t do it. He did it.”(Point to someone in the audience.)
 4. Say out loud, “I admit I have sinned. Jesus, I need your forgiveness!”

Offering:

- candy bar

Learning Game:

- half sheet of paper with Colossians 3:23, 24 written on it, “*Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master not merely for humans...It is Christ, your real master, whom you are serving.*” (This is attached to this listing.)
- sheet of paper for each pair of children

Bible Presentation:

- video, *Adventures In Odyssey: A Fine Feathered Frenzy* (Focus On the Family Films, 1992)—order from www.christianbooks.com

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.