



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Pass the Promise  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 22

# God Is Better Than Fair

**Primary Scripture:** Romans 8:28

**Key Verse:** Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan."

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

Kids are keenly aware of what is fair and not fair, especially when they feel they have been treated unjustly. Sometimes when bad things happen in their lives, kids might think God is not being fair. But God's Word assures us that he is *better than fair*. In the middle of bad stuff, he can still work. We need to trust God for that and look for it. Kids need to know that if God was completely fair, Jesus never would have suffered on the cross for us. Jesus took what we deserved. This is mercy and it's better than fair! Because of Christ's suffering, he tells us that as his followers, we too, will suffer in unfair ways for him. We should expect that. He'll make good happen out of it! (Matthew 10:22 and John 15:20-21.)!

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** Jesus gave his life for us and suffered on the way to the cross. (*Not fair!*) When he died on the cross for us, he took all of our sins on himself.

**Jesus in us:** When filled with Jesus and his love, we realize we neither earn nor deserve his great gift. We can trust God's promise that he can make good come from bad circumstances.

**Jesus through us:** When other people treat us unfairly, we can forgive. We can choose to be faithful to God rather than worry about fairness. Others can experience Jesus' attitude through our attitude and actions.

## 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 presenter 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.*

**Have you ever said, "That's not fair!" Have you ever been mad because something wasn't fair? Who can give me some examples?**

**Today we are going to find out that God isn't just fair. He's *better than fair*. If God were fair, he would have to punish us for disobeying him. Instead, Jesus took what we deserve.**

**He's *better than fair*. He gives us Jesus so we can be with him forever instead of being separated from him because of sin. Let's get to know him better in worship now.**

**We begin in the name of God the Father who loves, God the Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us, and God the Holy Spirit who is with us right now. Be with us, God, to help us better worship you!**

### 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:*

- *small teeter-totter (a plank or balance on a fulcrum)*
- *several bean bags (at least six)*

The presenter will have a small teeter-totter (a plank balanced on a fulcrum). With this he will explain that we sometimes think everything has to be fair. During the following illustration, he places beanbags on the plank as noted.

**Has your brother or sister ever gotten something you didn't, like a second dessert?**

Place a beanbag on the teeter-totter.

**It didn't seem fair. So you said, "No fair! I deserve one, too." If you got one, then it would seem fair, right? It would be balanced, right?**

Place a beanbag on the other side of teeter-totter.

**Or maybe your parents let your brother or sister have a sleepover but wouldn't let you. So you said, "No fair!"**

Place beanbag on one side.

**Then they say you can have one the next night.**

Place beanbag on other side.

**Now it seems fair. What happens if someone is mean to you at school and hits you on the arm and it hurts. You may say to yourself, "No fair!"**

Place beanbag on one side.

**What do you do to make it fair? Hit him back? Tell the teacher and get even? You really feel hurt because it's not fair. But trying to get even doesn't work.**

Throw beanbag down hard enough on other side of the teeter-totter to launch the last one.

What usually happens? People get hurt and angry and maybe start fighting. Did you know that Jesus can help us with this problem? He doesn't want us to be *fair*. He wants us to be *more than fair*.

When Jesus came to earth, he lived a perfect life. Jesus could do this because he is God. Jesus came to take God's punishment for our sin upon himself. When Jesus came to earth, he knew many things that weren't fair were going to happen to him.

With each "no fair," drop a beanbag on the same side of the teeter-totter. If you run out of beanbags, repeat with what you have.

People lied about Jesus. *No fair!* Some were jealous of Jesus and tried to hurt his feelings. *No fair!* Others planned a way to kill Jesus. *No fair!* Some spit on him. *No fair!* Soldiers beat Jesus and nailed him to the cross. *No fair!* His disciples ran away from helping him. *No fair!* For all the sin—all the wrong things—with all that you or I have ever done, Jesus was punished for on the cross! *No fair!* Jesus suffered what it would be like to be fully punished by God for every wrong thing you, I, and everyone in the world have ever done! Wow! *No fair!*

What do you think Jesus did to get even? Nothing. He knew that suffering all those bad things would be worth it. God would make something good come out of it.

Did God make something good come out of Jesus dying on the cross? You bet he did! We can be forgiven because of it. God promised not to get even with us for all the wrong things we do against him or against other people. God is *better than fair*. He is merciful. Merciful means not getting even with someone. Let's thank God for being merciful to us and not treating us *fairly* as our sins would deserve.

Dear God, thank you that you aren't like this teeter-totter. All the wrong things we have done are wrong things we have done to you. But you don't say, "No fair!" or try to get even with us. You gave us Jesus to take our punishment. *(Switch beanbags to the other side of the plank.)*

If anyone here has never known this, let him know it now. If someone has never asked Jesus to be his Savior, let him ask Jesus to come into his life right now. *(Pause.)* Thank you for forgiving us in Jesus' name. Amen.

How does that make you feel to know God has been more than fair to you? Do you think you could be more than fair to others? Is there someone on your teeter-totter that you are holding a grudge against? Trying to get even with?

The Bible says in Colossians 3:13, "*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*" Think of a person that you have wanted to "get even with." Let's pray that God will help us depend on him to "balance" our situation.

Dear God, I'm thinking of a person who has done something wrong against me. God, you know it's not fair. I want to be like you. When it's not fair, I want to be *better than fair*. In Jesus' name, I forgive this person. Help me to no longer try to even the score or get back at them.

## **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.*

**Can we ever pay back God? He's the one who has given us all that we have—our house, our parents, our money, and our food. When we give our offerings to him, are we trying to pay him back? No, of course not. We can never pay him that much. But we can give him a gift that says thank you. That's what our offerings do. Our offerings are a simple way of saying "we can never pay you back for all you have given us, but we can tell you thank you."**



# The Word

## 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.*

Have the children practice the memory work from Romans 8:28.

***"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan."***

## 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:*

- *small candies*
- *larger candies*
- *sets of cards made from card stock with the following words printed on them:*
  - We know
  - that all
  - things
  - work
  - together
  - for the
  - good
  - of those
  - who love
  - God

Divide the children into two teams. Each team will be given a set of cards. Have the teams race to see who can arrange the cards in the right order. Promise candy prizes to the winners.

Once a team has solved the puzzle, award each team member with a small piece of candy. Then tell them they must give their candy to the other team. No fair! After they have done so, they are awarded a bigger candy prize.

**Life just doesn't seem fair. God may not even seem fair! But the Bible says that, especially in times like those, we can count on God to work something out for his good. God is better than fair!**

## **Application:**

*Supplies:*

- *book, All Is Well: The Miracle of Christmas in July written by Frank Peretti and illustrated by Gary Glover (Integrity Publishers, 2002)*

*All Is Well: The Miracle of Christmas in July* is a touching Christmas story that beautifully shows how God can work his good in the middle of any hard time or unfair circumstance! Let the kids lie down, close their eyes, and picture the story happening!





## **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.*

**Talk about a time when you got hurt and it didn't seem fair.**

As kids share their stories, interview them as to the outcome. Help them see that God can still give helpful outcomes when it doesn't seem fair at the time.

## **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.*

Focus on a special praise time for God who sees our future and holds it in his hands. Thank him that we can always count on him.

## **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:

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- small teeter totter (a plank or balance on a fulcrum)
- several bean bags (at least six)

## *Learning Game:*

- small candies
- larger candies
- sets of cards made from card stock (A copy of cards is attached to this listing.)

## *Application:*

- book, *All Is Well: The Miracle of Christmas in July* written by Frank Peretti and illustrated by Gary Glover (Integrity Publishers, 2002)—order from [http://www.houseofjames.com/product\\_1591450209](http://www.houseofjames.com/product_1591450209)

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