



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 7

Don't Cover Up Your Sin; Cover Your Sin With Jesus

Primary Scripture: 1 John 1:8-10

Key Verse: 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong."

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

Guilt is a powerful emotion. When kids feel guilt, they often cover their guilt by hiding or denying it. For that matter, the same is true of adults. Such hiding and deceiving can be very emotionally and spiritually damaging. We need to confess our sins to God and let our sins be covered with the forgiveness that comes from Jesus. This frees us from guilt that would pull us down.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life as a guilt offering for all of our sins. Because of Jesus, God can remove our guilt and give us the freedom of forgiveness.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us power to live free lives through his forgiving presence.

Jesus through us: We can share God's words of forgiveness with others so they, too, can be free from their guilt.

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 the worship symbols forward 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:

- *piece of paper titled, "A Secret Note"—the title can be written in a child's handwriting addressed from one kid to another*

In advance: Choose a child and give him a secret note. Tell him that you will accuse him of passing a note. He should act guilty and give you the note.

Once you have gotten everyone's attention and are about to begin, interrupt yourself by saying:

(Child's name), I saw that. I saw you try to pass that note. Please come here and give me that note. (Child's name), you know it's against the rules to pass notes in Kids Church.

Now let me read this note. Oh my. I can't believe you would pass such a note. I can't believe you would write such a thing.

Have the volunteer return to his seat.

Boys and girls, do you think I should read the note for everyone to hear? Take responses.

Well, the truth is that I wouldn't want to embarrass (child's name), and a secret note might really embarrass him, right? How would you feel if it were you that were caught? Take responses.

The truth is I arranged with (child's name) beforehand to pass the note and get caught. I did it because today we are talking about how we sometimes think we can keep secrets from God.

Sometimes we can do things in our lives that we want to keep secret from God. Maybe when we do something wrong, we don't want him to know. So we pretend that God cannot see. Can he see us? Of course, he can.

God doesn't want us to have secrets from him. Instead, he wants us to tell him about those times that we have failed or not done what is right. God wants us to succeed and to do right. We need his forgiveness and the power of Jesus in our lives for us to do that.

When we worship today, let's know that God can see all of our secret thoughts and desires. He can even see the things that are bad. He loves us anyway. Because of his forgiveness, God can take those things away and we can give him all of our worship and praise.

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!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

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

Supplies:

- *slip of paper for each child*
- *trash can*

Pass out a slip of paper to each child. Have the children write on the paper with an imaginary pen something they have tried to hide from God. Have them bring forward their slips of paper as they silently confess their sin. When everyone has turned his slip in, announce forgiveness as you say:

"As far as the east is from the west—that is how far he (God) has removed our rebellious acts from himself."
(Psalm 103:12.)

Then throw the slips of paper into a trash can and have it carried out of the room.

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:

- *black construction paper*
- *white cloth*

Show children a black piece of construction paper and explain that this sheet of paper reminds us of the dirtiness of our sin. Next, cover the construction paper with a white handkerchief or cloth. Say:

This white cloth reminds us of Jesus and how he covered our sin when he laid down his life on the cross. Because he covers us with his forgiveness, we are thankful to him and can lay our offerings before him.

Have children bring their offerings forward and lay them on the white cloth.



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.

Water Tubin':

Supplies:

- *at least two water tubes (Optional choices: long balloons, plastic chemistry test tubes)*
- *at least two hand towels or dish cloths (The same number of towels are needed as water tubes.)*

Have the children line up in at least two lines. Have a relay race passing water tubes from one child to another down the line. The child carrying the water tube covers his hand(s) and tube with a towel so when the tube is passed the receiver must place her hand under the towel and try to take the water tube without actually seeing it.

Many relay lines might be formed to have the game move faster. Base the number of lines you have on the number of water tubes available.

After the relay, gather the children together and discuss:

When we do something wrong before God, we often want to cover it up and pass it off. When the wrong thing is covered up, it is very difficult to pass off.

God wants us to do something else. We will see what he wants us to do in our object lesson for the day.

Object Lesson:

“Don’t Cover Up Your Sin; Cover Your Sin With Jesus”

Supplies:

- *trick mirror box, change bag, or gimmick paper sack (A mirror box or change bag can be purchased at a local magic store or at www.magictrickstore.com. See below on how to make a gimmick paper sack.)*
- *water tube*
- *red cloth*

A mirror box or a change bag is a common illusion supply sold at magic stores. Use an internet search engine to locate a product source or www.magictrickstore.com. If you don't want to purchase one, you can easily make a similar product by cutting out the bottom of a paper bag and taping one edge of it almost at the bottom of another complete paper bag. This will create a flap that, when opened, allows room for something to be placed at the bottom of the bag. The flap is then closed so the bag looks empty.

Today in our learning game we passed water tubes down the line. What made the game hard was that we couldn't see what we were passing because our hands were covered with a cloth.

This reminds us of times we do bad things and we want to cover them up and try to get rid of them. Covering them up doesn't help us get rid of them, does it? Sometimes they slip right out of our hands, fall on the floor for all to see, and we feel really silly.

God has a better way to deal with our sin. It's this.

Show the mirror box (or change bag or gimmick paper sack) to be empty.

This box is like a storage box for sin.

Open the top of the box without letting the children see inside. Drop the water tube into the box, and close the box.

Does God store sins so you will never forget them? Does he always remember your sins so he can punish you someday? No! God wants you to be free from the guilt of your sins so you can serve him with your whole heart.

Let's cover all the sins with the blood of Jesus.

Cover the box with the red cloth.

This reminds us that Jesus died on the cross to pay for all the punishment of our sin. Jesus rose again so he could be alive and live in our lives helping us to do just what God wants.

Remove the red cloth. Show the mirror box.

As you can see, God does not store our sins to remind us of them again. Instead, he takes our sins away as we trust in Jesus. The blood of Jesus covers our sins.

Life Application:

Supplies:

- *Veggie Tale video: Larry Boy and the Fib from Outer Space, produced by Big Idea Productions, 1997)—order from <http://yhst-54787164184156.stores.yahoo.net/lafibfrousp.html>*

Or...

- *book, “Max and the Big Fat Lie: A Book About Telling the Truth,” written by Michael P. Waite and illustrated by Gary Trousdale. This book is part of the Building Christian Character Series by Chariot Books of David C. Cooke Publishing. (This book is out of print but may be available in your church library. You may be able to order it online from http://www.alibris.com/search/search.cfm?qwork=4243611&wauth=Michael%20waite&matches=5&qsort=r&cm_re=works*listing*title.)*

Show the Veggie Tale video, *Larry Boy and the Fib from Outer Space*. Or, if available, read the book *Max and the Big Fat Lie: A Book About Telling the Truth*.



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.

Invite children to tell about times they tried to hide something they did wrong and it didn't work. Interview them and discuss how good it feels not to have something like that hidden. Talk about how God's forgiveness frees 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.

Invite the kids to spend time in silent confession over a wrong thing they have done that has bothered them for quite some time. Be sure to read 1 John 1:8-10 and announce God's forgiveness to them. Then continue with the rest of the prayers and intercessions.

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 piece of paper titled, “A Secret Note”—the title can be written in a child’s handwriting addressed from one kid to another

The Power of the Cross:

- slip of paper for each child
- trash can

Offering:

- black construction paper
- white cloth

Learning Game:

- at least two water tubes (optional: use long balloons or plastic chemistry test tubes)
- at least two hand towels or dish cloths (The same number of towels are needed as water tubes.)

Object Lesson:

- trick mirror box, change bag, or gimmick paper sack (A mirror box or change bag can be purchased at a local magic store or use an internet search engine to locate a product source. www.magictrickstore.com is another product source option. See the lesson on how to make a gimmick paper sack.)
- water tube
- red cloth



Water Tube



Mirror Box

Life Application:

- Veggie Tale video, *Larry Boy and the Fib from Outer Space*. (Big Idea Productions, 1997)—order from <http://yhst-54787164184156.stores.yahoo.net/lafibfrousp.html>
- **Or...**
- book, *Max and the Big Fat Lie: A Book About Telling the Truth*, written by Michael P. Waite and illustrated by Gary Trousdale. This book is part of the Building Christian Character Series by Chariot Books of David C. Cooke Publishing. (This book is out of print but may be available in your church library.)—order from http://www.alibris.com/search/search.cfm?qwork=4243611&wauth=Michael%20waite&matches=5&qsort=r&cm_re=works*listing*title

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.