



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 12

Jesus Came and Walked in the Middle of Our Sin

Primary Scripture: Genesis 15:7-18, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Key Verse: John 1:14a, "The Word [*Jesus*] became human and lived among us..."

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

Elementary aged children are beginning to grasp the concept of being responsible for their own rebellious acts of sin. The world sends messages that minimize the severity of our sin and how it might separate us from God. Kids need to know clearly that God dealt with our sin when he sent Jesus to earth to take our sin upon himself. There is an interesting picture of this in the Old Testament when God made a covenant with Abram as recorded in Genesis 15. This was today's Bible event for Kingdom Quest. This lesson examines the New Testament truth of how Jesus walks in the middle of our sin to remove it and take it on himself.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus walks in the middle of our sin and takes it on himself. He removed it from God's presence when he died on the cross.

Jesus in us: As we trust in Jesus, he dwells within us, filling us with the presence of God.

Jesus through us: Just as Jesus walked in the middle of our world to bring God's rescue, so we can walk into a broken, fallen world and bring the saving and healing message of forgiveness in Jesus' name.

Kids Church Year 1 - Lesson 12 - 1

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:

- *suitcase or traveling bag*
- *crown*
- *crown of thorns (optional)*

I want you to imagine with me that your favorite grandma who lives far away has come to visit you.

Show kids the suitcase or bag and say:

She brings with her a suitcase, and in the suitcase she has brought you all kinds of presents and good things.

Now imagine Jesus coming to visit you.

Open the suitcase.

Inside of the suitcase he has a crown of life that he wants to give to you. Jesus came to live among us and live a perfect life even in a world full of sin and temptation. He earned for you a crown of life and he wants to place it on your head.

Let's worship him today because he is here with us now.

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:

- suitcase
- crown of thorns

Think of something you did this week that was wrong. God wants to take it away with the power of his forgiveness and help you not do it anymore. Tell Jesus in your heart that you are sorry for that bad thing and you do not want to ever do it again.

Open the suitcase and say:

Jesus wants to take your sin and remove it as far as the east is from the west.

Pretend to put your sin in this suitcase. Have kids think of their own sins and imagine putting their sins into the suitcase.

I see another crown inside. Would you look at this! It is a crown of thorns. This crown is a symbol of what Jesus did to pay the cost of our sin. He died on the cross. Wow, he traded that crown of life for a crown of thorns! But look what that does for our sin.

Now close the suitcase and take it out of the room. Leave the suitcase outside of the room and return.

“As far as the east is from the west—that is how far he has removed our rebellious acts (sins) from himself.” (Psalms 103:12.) That’s what Jesus has done for us when he took our sins on himself on the cross.

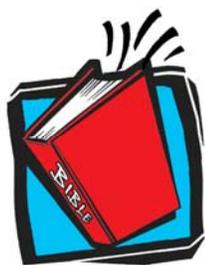
Song of Response:

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.

Remind the children that we give our offerings to God because we trust him completely. We know how much he loves us; he gave his only Son to die for each and every one of us to save us from our sins! If we trust him through Jesus, then we can certainly trust him with everything, including our money.



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:

- *masking tape*
- *objects that the kids can easily walk on, pick up, and move such as carpet squares; six-inch to three-foot sections of 2"x4"s; or one-foot by one-foot sections of one-inch plywood*

Tape two lines on the floor at opposite sides of the room (at least 20 feet apart). Explain to the children that both of the lines represent safe beaches. In between the beaches is an ocean of slimy, black goo that will drag them back to shore if they accidentally step there.

Divide kids into groups of ten. Explain that the object of the game is for each team to safely get from one beach to the other beach. The only way they can reach the beach is to build a bridge with the moveable objects (sections of wood or carpet squares, etc.)

Explain the rules as follows:

No one can step on the opposite beach until all kids are off the starting beach. The bridge must also be picked up as the last person steps off the last moveable section. If anyone falls off the bridge into the ocean of slimy, black goo, he gets dragged back to the starting beach. Then all kids must once again go back to the starting shore to pick up this teammate.

After the teams have completed their task, gather kids together and discuss the learning point.

In today's game, everyone walked in the middle of danger. Today we will see how Jesus walked through treachery. He walked through the middle of our sin when he came as a man to this earth and then took our sin on himself when he went to the cross.

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.

Genesis 15

Use dramatic storytelling as a technique to communicate this powerful portion of scripture. Be so familiar with it that you can be free from your script to tell the story with gestures and actions.

Back in the time of Abraham when people made an agreement, they called it a covenant. They didn't write down the agreement on a piece of paper and sign it like we do today. To show they were serious about keeping their promise, they would sacrifice animals by cutting them in half right down the middle.

I know that sounds horrible, but there is a reason they did it. They could have used a cow, a goat, a ram, doves and pigeons or other animals. After cutting the animal in half, they laid each half opposite each other on the ground. Then both people would walk right through the middle of those halves of animals.

You couldn't help but notice the blood and how terrible it was that the animals were killed. When both of the people making the agreement got to the other side, they would turn around and look at the animals and say, "May it happen to us just as it did to these animals if either of us break the agreement."

Would you want to break an agreement like that? I wouldn't either.

Long ago, a most amazing thing happened to a man named Abram. God made a promise to Abram that he would give him a son, and from his son, Abram would have many descendants that would become a great nation. God also promised to give Abram and his descendants a rich land to live in. To show Abram how serious he was, God asked Abram to cut many animals in half just like the custom was in those days.

On that day when the sun was about to set, a deep sleep—a dreadful, deep darkness—came over Abram. Suddenly, Abram saw the presence of God in the form of a smoking pot and a flaming torch pass between the animal pieces. God was making a covenant or an agreement with Abram. But did Abram walk through it? No. Only God made the agreement. Abram did not have to agree to anything other than to simply believe God.

I wonder what Abram was thinking when he saw those sacrificed animals cut in half and then saw the presence of God go right between them. As the years went by, God kept his promises. Abram had a son named Isaac from which the nation of Israel grew. Abram also received a promised land. Finally, a great blessing came from his descendants. That blessing came when a baby was born whose name was Jesus.

And Jesus came to earth and walked among us humans just like God's presence walked between those sacrificed animals. John 1:14 says, "The Word (*Jesus*) became human and lived among us." The perfect and holy Jesus came to walk in the middle of our sinful world. Just like the sacrificed animals look ugly and awful, our sin is bad in God's sight.

Sin is so serious that God demands someone pay the cost of death for the penalty just like those animals lost their lives to seal an agreement. Jesus came and walked in the middle of us and lived a perfect life in our behalf. He signed the agreement of God's promise to us. When Jesus came to earth he took our sin upon himself. The Bible says, "*God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus walked among us and walked in the middle of our sin. When he took it on the cross, he removed that sin from God's presence so we would not have to be punished for it. And now he promises to walk among us through the power of his Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us God's presence wherever we go.

Application:

Supplies:

- *an overhead projector*
- *paper clips*
- *magnet*

Pile the paper clips on an overhead projector so their image appears on a screen. Explain that the paper clips represent our hurts, our pain, and our sin. Show kids the magnet and explain that the magnet represents Jesus when he walked in the middle of our pain and sin. He took it all on himself. Move the magnet through the middle of the paper clips.

Some paper clips may not stick to the magnet. Explain that Jesus wants to take our sin and pain away, but some people do not want to give them up to him.



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.

Have kids share a time that they felt bad about something they did wrong, but when someone forgave, then it helped them feel better.

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:

- suitcase or traveling bag
- crown
- crown of thorns (optional)

The Power of the Cross:

- suitcase
- crown of thorns

Learning Game:

- masking tape
- objects that the kids can easily walk on, pick up, and move such as carpet squares; six-inch to three-foot sections of 2"x4"; or one-foot by one-foot sections of one-inch plywood

Application:

- overhead projector
- paper clips
- magnet

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