



Date: _____
Series: A Miraculous Church
Spring Year 2, Lesson 58

Does God Punish Sin?

Primary Scripture: Hebrews 12:7-11; Genesis 2:16-17;
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21; “God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God’s approval through him.”

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

Kids often hear of God’s love for them. However, sometimes they miss another important truth. God is holy and he judges sin. In other words, God punishes sin. Children need to know this so they can appreciate God removing their sin from them so they do not receive eternal punishment. Then they can see the depth of God’s love for them. As they experience the love of the Father, they are reminded that there are still consequences for sin. These consequences help us to repent of our sin and turn back to Jesus. Consequences of sin are always to our benefit if we respond by returning to God and his forgiveness.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus became sin for us so that God would punish him instead of us and we would not receive eternal death.

Jesus in us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can fashion in us the character of Christ even as we are shaped by his discipline.

Jesus through us: We can invite others to receive Jesus’ love, but can warn as well that people need to turn away from rebellion and the punishment it brings.

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.

Call up a volunteer. Whisper in his/her ear to pretend to be in "time out." Ask him/her to sit still and quiet in a chair that you have placed in a corner and to stare in one spot on the wall. Say to the audience:

Kids, what do you think is happening to my volunteer here? Can you guess what he/she is doing or where he/she is? What does this position remind you of?

Take guesses until kids answer, "time out." Then say:

Show by hand, how many of you have been put into "time out" because you did something wrong?

If some kids do not raise hands, then ask:

Now, if you didn't raise your hand for the last question, I want you to raise it now if you have ever in your life been in trouble. Silent poll.

Well, it looks as if everyone has done something wrong at some point in your life. Maybe it was on purpose because you just got selfish and wanted to do a bad thing even though you knew it was wrong. Or, maybe you didn't even know you were doing something

wrong until you got into trouble. That's the whole point of discipline and punishment, to teach us right from wrong.

How does it feel to be punished by your parents?

Interview a few kids.

It doesn't feel good to be punished, so being thankful for our punishment is the last thing we feel like doing. But does a parent who disciplines us, not love us? No, of course not. So why would someone who loves you treat you in a way that makes you feel bad or, maybe, even not like you for a while?

It is our parents' job to punish or discipline us when we do something wrong. If they didn't love us, then when we made a mistake or disobeyed them, they would say, "I don't care what you do," or "I don't want you in my family anymore." But parents want to teach us the importance of obeying. They want to teach us because they love us and want us to learn right from wrong.

Take the child out of "time out," give him/her a hug and have him/her sit back with the group.

That hug reminds us of our Heavenly Father who wants the very best for us even if it means we sometimes need to be disciplined or punished. Today let's worship and imagine that when we are disciplined or punished, we can give our Heavenly Father a big hug as a way to show that we love him and thank him for caring for us and keeping us in his family.

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.

Refer to the empty time out chair on the stage.

When Jesus was growing up, do you think he was ever put into "time out?" I don't think so. We do know that Jesus was not disobedient and was God's perfect Son. So, do you think Jesus ever knew what it was like to be in "time out?" Believe it or not, he did.

He was feeling much worse than that when he was nailed to and dying on the cross, because he was taking the punishment for everyone's sin.

In Matthew 27:46 Jesus says, *"My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?"*

He cried this out to his father. And notice that he didn't even call him "Father," but called out, "My God." When this happened, all the sin in the world was put on him, and with his death, he took all the sin away.

When this happened, he felt alone and punished for all the evil in the world. But did that punishment end? Yes, because after he died, he rose again to show us that our sins are forgiven. So, let's close our eyes and think about any wrong thing we have done. We need to tell God about it so he can lift it off of us. He can do this because the price of our sin has already been paid because Jesus suffered for us. Let's pray for that now.

Prayer

Dear God, we know that you punish sin, and that Jesus took our punishment on himself. Thank you. Please forgive us and take our sin away. Please change us so that we don't intentionally do wrong against you or anyone else. Instead, fill us with love for you and others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want 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.

Place the offering basket on the "time out" chair. Invite kids to place their offerings in it and as they do, to think about times they've been disciplined. Remind them to be thankful for the love that comes with discipline.



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.

“More or Less Clothespins”

Supplies needed: five clothespins per child

Have each child clip five clothespins to his/her own clothes. When the leader says, “Go!” the children should remove the clothespins from their own clothes and try to clip them onto other people. As soon as they have removed all of the clothespins from their clothes and have attached them to others’ clothes, they can sit down. The challenge is that kids must clip clothespins to others more quickly than others clip clothespins to them. The first five children to sit down are the winners.

Warn the kids to be careful to clip the clothespins only to articles of clothing and to avoid pinching anyone’s skin.

After they have played several rounds, have the large group leader step in and say:

Now let’s play the game again, but this time, instead, pin your clothespins on me.

Stand still in the room with arms out and see how quickly the clothespins are removed from the kids onto you. Point out that when you’re not clipping anyone back, you become an easy target and can quickly be filled with all the clothespins. Then say:

How was I like Jesus? Jesus lets us pin all of our sins onto him, be set free and win the game.

Learning Point

In order to win this game, you do something kind of unusual. Rather than trying to collect the most clothespins, the object of the game is to give your clothespins to others. Most often we win games by

getting more for ourselves. However, in this game, and in the Christian life, we win by giving more of ourselves to others – just like Jesus gave more of himself to us.

Bible Reading:

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.

Illustrative Teaching – “Jesus Takes Our Punishment”

Supplies: A crown cut from poster board, a large heart cut from poster board, masking tape, signs (See appendix), cross

Imagine that you are a judge and one of your friends is charged with a crime. He comes before you and is guilty. He must be punished. The problem is that you like your friend and don't want to punish him. But you are a judge and must obey the law and give the punishment. What are you to do? Something very similar happened to God. What did he do? Let's find out.

Crown – Perfect Holiness

Show the crown.

This crown reminds us of God. He made everything in the whole universe and is king over all.

Next to the crown, place the sign “Perfect holiness.” Say:

God is perfect in every way. He is holy. There is no sin in him. He has never done anything wrong. Therefore he cannot tolerate sin, only those who are also perfect can see God face to face and live.

Heart – Perfect Love

Show the heart.

This heart reminds us of something else about God. Can you guess? Yes, the Bible says that God is love.

Place the sign says “Perfect love,” next to the heart.

God loves all that he made. He especially loves people. He made people so that they could live forever with him and enjoy his love. His love is willing to give them the very best. His love is so perfect that he would even consider the needs of others before he considers himself.

Adam and Eve – Warning

Hang the crown and heart signs on the wall or backdrop behind presenter, spaced about ten feet apart with two chairs set between them for the volunteers.

Select two volunteers – a boy and a girl to come and sit in the two chairs on the stage. Place the Adam and Eve signs on them. Then say to the audience:

Let's use our imagination and pretend that these two were the first two people, Adam and Eve. When God put them in the garden, he let them have anything to eat. But he also gave them a chance to show him their obedience and love. He told them not to eat the fruit of a certain tree in the middle of the garden. This is the tree of "Knowing Good and Evil." He gave them free choice but warned them that they would die if they ate the fruit from this tree.

Punishment

What did it mean when God said, "You will surely die?." There are two kinds of death in the Bible. One is physical death. That means that our body dies, but our soul continues to exist. But the second death is called eternal death. This means that our soul is not able to live with God. Instead, it would be separated from him in a place of darkness and pain. This place is called hell. The law says that anyone who sins has rebelled against God' and sin must be punished and removed from God's sight. It must be put out of God's presence. It results in physical death *and* spiritual death.

Adam and Eve Sin

Did Adam and Eve sin? Did they eat of this fruit in the middle of the garden? Yes. Look at our two people up here. Imagine that they are Adam and Eve. Did they sin? Do they deserve to be punished? Yes. Does God punish sin? Yes. That means they must die. Has everyone sinned? Yes, that's just like you and me. We, too, are like Adam and Eve disobeying God. Do we deserve to be punished for our sin? Yes. What does God think about this?

God's Dilemma

Point to the cross.

Remember God is holy and must punish sin. He must make sure that sin is punished with death and sin is put far away from his presence because he is holy and just.

Point to the heart.

But God loves Adam and Eve very much. He loves you and me very much. He doesn't want us removed from him or cast away from his presence like we deserve because of our sin. But if he is a perfect God, he must punish sin. But if he has perfect love, he doesn't want us to live without him. What does he do?

The Crown and Heart Come Together

This is what God does.

Take a long strip of masking tape and make a double-sided sticky loop by attaching the ends with the adhesive side facing outward. Place it on the crown, somewhere vertically in the middle. Take another strip of masking tape, a bit shorter, and make it a double-sided sticky loop in the same way. Place this loop horizontally through the top area of the first loop to form a cross on the poster board.



This tape reminds us that God's perfect holiness and perfect love come together in the cross. God figured out a way to punish sin by laying all of our sin on his Son, Jesus. That way he perfectly fulfills the law and perfectly loves at the same time.



Move the heart from its position on the wall and place it on the tape, sticking the heart and crown together.

Jesus took all of our sins onto himself and was punished for us. Because God's justice was fulfilled through Jesus, we can spend forever with him after our body dies. Even Adam and Eve looked forward to the promise of God that a Savior would be born.

So now let's imagine that these two volunteers no longer represent Adam and Eve, but you and me. Every person who hears the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection for us can accept it or reject it. That means that they can believe that Jesus took the punishment for their sin away, or that they can fulfill God's justice on their own.

Some people think they can balance out their wrongdoings by doing good things, thinking that fulfills God's justice. Other people pretend they really do nothing wrong or they might try to hide their wrongdoing. None of this works. The only way that our sin is taken away is when Jesus takes our sins away.

He became sin for us

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.” and

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)

Do you see how Jesus took our punishment on himself? God is holy and can fulfill justice, punishing sin, yet still love at the same time. Because of this, he will have us as his children forever.

God disciplines his children

Does that mean that because God forgives our sins, we won't have consequences for our sins? No. For example, if we cheated on a math test, would God forgive us? Yes, when we ask him to forgive us. But we could still have punishment when we're caught to remind us not to cheat and study instead.

If we disobey our parents and are put into “time out,” will God forgive us? Yes. But does that mean we won't have to sit in “time out?” No. That's the way we can learn. So God uses discipline to teach us and remind us to always come to him for forgiveness, then try and do better next time.

Hebrews 9:15 says, “Because Christ offered himself to God, he is able to bring a new promise from God. Through his death he paid the price to set people free from the sins they committed under the first promise. He did this so that those who are called can be guaranteed an inheritance that will last forever.”

Hebrews 9:28 says, “Likewise, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of humanity, and after that he will appear a second time. This time he will not deal with sin, but he will save those who eagerly wait for him.”

Video

Show video excerpt from, *The Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, produced by Bridgestone Multimedia Group (11/99). Order from http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=025970&netp_id=294892&event=EFIN|967390|80623#details.

Show from 2 hours 8 min. (2:08) “What is the matter...are you ill?” to 2:20 “Death itself will be denied.” (12 minutes total running time) This segment shows Aslan, the lion, exchanging his life for the boy's life, yet arises from the dead because of a greater power.



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 they took the blame for something bad they didn't do. Why were they willing to take the blame?

Or have them share a time when someone else took the blame for something bad they did.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

Prayer Line Option: Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

Prayer Chair: Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees, and take turns praying.

Popcorn Prayer: The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

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:

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 and The Power of the Cross

- chair

Learning Game

- clothespins

Bible Reading

- a crown cut from poster board
- a large heart cut from poster board
- masking tape
- signs (see appendix)
- cross
- video excerpt from, *The Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, produced by Bridgestone Multimedia Group, (11/99)—order from: http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=025970&netp_id=294892&event=EFIN|967390|80623#details

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.

Appendix

Bible Reading Signs:

Perfect

Holiness

Perfect

Love

Adam

Eve