

sinning. He hates sin and wants us to have nothing to do with it. So when we disobey His word, He "corrects" us and "guide us to the right path." We must remember that God is merciful and He forgives us when we confess our sin.

## Lesson

# 11

## Jesus Forgives Peter

**Bible Text:** Mk 15--16:8; Jn 20:1-8; 21:1-19

**Bible Truth:**

Jesus showed love and acceptance of Peter by forgiving him.

**Lesson Aim:**

1. To encourage your students to forgive others by showing love and care to them.
2. To encourage your students to ask for forgiveness for wrong actions.

**Memory Verse:**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn 1:9)

**Bible Background:**

In this beach scene, Jesus led Peter through an experience that would remove the cloud of his denial. Although Jesus already knew what was in Peter's heart, Jesus was challenging Peter to examine his intentions, so he could truly repent. Jesus knew that real repentance and forgiveness involve more than just intentions—they involve conscious acts of the will. Jesus loved Peter enough to want him to understand and experience genuine repentance and forgiveness. Even though Peter felt sorry and had wept after denying Jesus (Lk 22:62), Jesus provided him with the opportunity to act and experience a new beginning by leaving behind his old, inadequate ways of living. Jesus asked if Peter loved Jesus with *phileo* love, meaning the

feelings of brotherly friendship. Jesus also asked if Peter had agape love, which involves self-sacrifice.

By commanding Peter to "feed my sheep," Jesus was encouraging Peter to respond to the spiritual needs of his Christian brothers and sisters with love, and thereby follow Jesus' example of love. Peter's life changed when he finally realized who Jesus was. Peter's chief occupation changed from fisherman to evangelist. His identity also changed from being impetuous to being a "rock"; and Peter's relationship with Jesus changed, too, he was forgiven by the Lord for his sin and Peter understood the real meaning of Jesus' resurrection.

### **About Your Students:**

Your children are probably a little more willing than most adults to forgive others—it's a part of their longing to receive acceptance from others. Let your children know that you have observed them in the aspect of forgiveness, and that you are pleased with what you have seen, overall, if that is the case. Not that this forgiveness is referred to in a long-term sense, meaning that your children probably do not usually carry grudges against each other over an extended period of time. However, the children in your class may be prone to get angry with each other over quick and small issues—and this may be the area in which a lesson on forgiveness is needed.

Sometimes your students will have disputes over projects, and they will say mean things to each other, causing ill feelings between those involved. The key to overcoming and understanding of others is to allow them to act out scenarios involving forgiveness and understanding—give them scenarios, in which one party is misunderstood, which leads to a dispute. Then, allow your students to discuss what went wrong in the scenario, and how things could be changed for the better. By doing this, you will be teaching your children how to think like others, in order to understand where they are coming from when they have a disagreement. Too often, our children impulsively think certain others are against them, when in fact, it

isn't the case—it may be just a misunderstanding. This will help to teach a lesson on understanding and compassion.

The best example for us to follow is Jesus' example of forgiving Peter. This is the best time to review the past lesson on "The Prodigal Son" and also the lesson on "Peter's Denial of Jesus." Talk about how loving and merciful Jesus was towards Peter and how forgiving the father was towards his prodigal son. Ask your students to share time when others have forgiven them. Present "What if?" situations for your children to think through and share solutions on. By encouraging forgiveness in the R.E. classroom, your children will find it easy to ask for forgiveness from others and to forgive others, as well.

### **Warm-Up:**

Have you ever done anything so awful--either accidentally or on purpose--that you wondered if you could be forgiven? What does it mean to be forgiven? How do you feel when you know you are forgiven?

In our Bible story, what had Peter done that might have made him doubt that Jesus would forgive him? Let's see what happened after Peter denied knowing Jesus.

### **Bible Story:**

Very early in the morning, after the soldiers had taken Jesus to the high priest's house, the Jewish leaders were discussing what to do with Jesus. They had arrested Him and were accusing Him of various crimes, even though Jesus had never done anything wrong.

After an unfair trial, they led Him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Even though Pilate could not find any fault with Jesus, crowds of people were gathered demanding Jesus be killed. Finally, Pilate had Jesus beaten and handed over to the soldiers to be killed. The soldiers mocked Him and then dragged Him away to be crucified.

Jesus died a painful death on a cross. Two robbers hung on crosses next to Him. This kind of death was usually reserved for people who had committed terrible crimes, but Jesus was completely innocent.

After Jesus died, a man named Joseph of Arimathea bravely went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph wanted to show respect to Jesus by burying Him in a decent place. Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross and carefully wrapped the body in a linen cloth. He placed Jesus' body in a tomb, which was a cave dug into a hillside. A huge rock was rolled against the entrance of the tomb.

All of Jesus' friends and family were very sorrowful. They had lost their leader and friend. They must have wondered what they would do now that Jesus was dead.

Cover the following in detail:

#### I. He is Alive!

A. Mary Magdalene told Peter and John that Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb.

B. They ran to the tomb and it was empty.

1. They heard about the message the angel at the empty tomb had shared.

2. The angel told them that Jesus is alive and He was no longer in the tomb.

#### II. Jesus Appears

A. Jesus appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem

B. The disciples went to Galilee to fish.

C. A man on shore told them to throw out the net on the right side of the boat.

1. The net was filled with fish.

2. The disciples realized it was Jesus on shore.

3. Peter jumped in the water and swam ashore.

4. When they got to the beach, Jesus was preparing breakfast.

#### IV. Jesus Gives Peter a Mission

A. Jesus asked Peter three times if he love Him.

B. Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep.

C. Jesus was showing that He loved and accepted Peter.

1. Peter had said three times he didn't know Jesus.
2. Jesus was showing forgiveness by giving Peter an important job to do.

#### Questions and Discussions:

1. What did Jesus do or say that indicated His love and acceptance of Peter?
2. Let's read 1 John 1:9. It tells us what to do when we have sinned and disobeyed God. What does the verse tell us we need to do?
3. What does it mean to confess our sins?
4. What will God do after we confess our sins?

#### Quiz:

##### Fill in the Blanks:

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly \_\_\_\_\_ me more than these?" (love)

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that \_\_\_\_\_." (I love you)

Jesus said, "Feed my \_\_\_\_\_." (lambs)

Again, Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that \_\_\_\_\_." (I love you)

Jesus said, "Take care of my \_\_\_\_\_." (sheep)

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you \_\_\_\_\_?" (love me)

He said, "Lord, you know all \_\_\_\_\_; you know that I love you." (things)

Jesus said, "Feed my \_\_\_\_\_. (sheep). I tell you the truth, when you were younger, you dressed yourself and went where you wanted, but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to Peter, "\_\_\_\_\_ me!" (Follow)

### Bible Discovery:

#### What Does It Mean to Forgive?

To forgive is to let go of your anger when someone has done something to hurt you and to stop wanting to blame or to punish that person.

Write all the words of Ephesians 4:32 in the puzzle below. Count the number of letters in each word and match them with the boxes.

Ephesians 4:32. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Forgiving others takes time. Sometimes it's much harder to forgive than at other times. When you forgive, it's important to remember these four steps:

1. Ask God to help you want to forgive the person who has hurt you.
2. Talk or write to the person who hurt you.
3. Tell them exactly what it was they did or said that hurt your feelings.
4. Offer to forgive first. Whether they choose to forgive you or not, you can know that you have done the right thing.

### Activity 1:

#### Forgiving Yourself

Are you thinking about a mistake you have made or someone you have disappointed? Are you having a hard time forgiving yourself?

Draw a line under any of these if they apply to you. Add two more.

Some things which are hard to forgive myself for are:

1. Telling someone a friend's secret after promising not to.
2. Hurting a younger or less capable person.
3. Giving in to the pressure to cheat.
- 4., Lying to my parents.

5. Thinking it was my fault that someone was hurt in the family.
6. Thinking I did something to cause someone to keep hurting my feelings.
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Finish these letters:

1. Dear Jesus, I'm so angry because I

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I can't forgive myself for all the problems that this is causing. I wish it had never happened and everything could be back the way it was. What do I do now?

Love

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2, Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I want you to forgive yourself, just as you are to forgive other people. When you ask me to forgive you, I will always forgive you and then I will treat you as if it had never happened. Read 1 John 1:9 in the Bible. When you receive my forgiveness, I want you to forgive yourself and do good. Don't repeat the same mistakes that you made before. Ask me for strength to overcome temptations or problems. I am always ready to help you.

Love  
Jesus

### Activity 2:

#### Peter's Puzzle

##### Across:

3. Peter's brother (Mt 4:18)
4. After witnessing the ascension of Christ, Peter returned to this city (Acts 1:12)
5. Jesus' name for Peter (Jn 1:42)

6. Peter's profession (Mt 4:18)
9. Jesus first met Peter by this sea (Mt 4:18)
10. The man who sold his and his wife's property and withheld some of the money (Acts 5:1-2)
11. Peter cut the ear off this man when Jesus was arrested (Jn 18:10)

**Down:**

1. Peter was opposed by this man for his hypocrisy (Gal 2:11-13)
2. The number of times Peter denied Jesus (Lk 22:61)
5. The centurion who sent for Peter in Joppa (Acts 10:1-5)
7. Peter referred to this prophet in his sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2:16)
9. Peter raised this woman from the dead (Acts 9:36-41)

**Notes**