

ACTIVITY 2

“S.O.S. – Get me out of this mess!”

Purpose: To help students recognize the thought process that will lead them to tell the truth rather than lie.

Materials: Student Activity Books

Procedure: Divide the students into 3 groups. Each group will work on one scenario. When they are finished, have each group report how they helped the child in the scenario out of the mess. After each report, let the other groups make suggestions and comments.

Afterwards, ask everyone to say this week’s memory verse together. Conclude with a prayer.

Scenarios

Stephanie didn’t do her homework for the 2nd time! Last night, she told her mom, Mrs. Chang, that she had already finished it (because she wanted to watch more television). Today, at school, the teacher asks Stephanie for her assignment. Stephanie panics...

Shu-Fang accidentally knocked over her mother’s favorite vase and has not only broken the vase but has also created a big, wet mess! Nobody saw her do it and only she and her little brother, Hua-Jeng, are at home...

Before school, Gustavo took \$6.00 out of the savings jar for lunch money after his mom, Mrs. Martinez, said to take only \$3.00. At dinner, Mrs. Martinez tells Mr. Martinez that the jar is short \$12.00 and she can’t figure out where the money went. Mr. Martinez asks Gustavo if he has seen the money...

Stephanie, Shu-Fang, and Gustavo are in trouble and don’t know what to do. They are really afraid! The first thing that they think of is to lie so that they can hide what they’ve done. Please, help them out!

1. Show them the consequences of lying and of telling the truth.
2. Help them say a pray to God for courage to do what is right.
3. What could they say or do to handle the situation in a truthful way?

Lesson 2

Seventy Times Seven

Bible Texts:

Mt 18:21-35

Bible Truth:

We must forgive others as our heavenly Father forgives us

Lesson Aim:

- 1) To understand what it means to forgive seventy times seven times
- 2) To be able to practice forgiveness of others, especially of those in the household of God

Mem. Verse:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

(Ephesians 4:32)

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Ten thousand talents - a talent was the amount of money a person could earn in about 15 years. Ten thousand talents was the debt that the master canceled for the first servant.

One hundred denarii - a denarius was the amount of money that a person could earn in a day. One hundred denarii was the amount that the second servant owed to the first servant.

Debts

Debts are not always something material. For example, because our parents have taken care of us since we were helpless babies, we owe it to them to obey and respect them while we are growing up, and to love and take care of them when they are elderly and frail. This may well be the biggest debt we owe to anyone on earth. However, it is still not bigger than the similar debt that we owe to God.

Besides providing us with our parents, allowing us to be born, and giving us all of nature to enjoy, God has done a most important thing for us, which no one else could ever do. Before any of us were born, He already came to earth in the form of flesh to die on the cross for our sins. Why did He do it? Well, the Bible tells us that the payment for sins is death (Rom 6:23). This means that because of the sins we commit in our lives (which, unfortunately, come quite easily to our nature), we have only death to look forward to in the end. However, because of what our Lord did, an escape route was opened up that leads to eternal life in heaven with Him! This is the gift of God, a gift He gives us out of His love.

We, who have already been baptized and covered with Jesus’ blood, have accepted this gift of love. We have been given directions to the path of this escape route and a strong hand to hold for courage and strength. Instead of being afraid of death, we can rejoice when we think of our promised destination afterwards!

Even as we make our way there, we will continue to make mistakes and maybe sin.

However, on top of all He has already done, God will forgive us, purify us, and help us to improve if we confess to Him and ask for His forgiveness (1 Jn 1:9). This way, we can continue on our path to salvation.

We are indebted to the love of the Lord. He loves us and sacrifices for us even though we do not deserve it. He always forgives our sins when we sincerely ask Him. We did nothing to deserve His love, and there is nothing we can possibly do to pay Him back for what He has done.

ABOUT YOUR STUDENTS

Your ten and eleven-year-olds may begin to experience some mood swings as they begin to move away from childhood and into adulthood. But thankfully, they are still pretty cooperative and easy going at this age. Most children of this age can forgive and forget readily. Beware, though, of the more stubborn children. These children have a harder time reconciling with others so they need your special attention in practicing forgiveness.

Help your students practice forgiveness by showing the vast benefits of doing so. Make a list of the pros and cons of forgiveness to let your children see concretely why we forgive. As a group, come up with price values for the items listed under pros and cons to see which costs more, whether forgiving someone or staying mad at them. Teach your students to think of Jesus when they find it difficult to practice forgiveness. Ask them to think of how Jesus forgave our multitude of sins, so they should have no excuse not to forgive others.

WARM - UP

“Seventy Times Seven Times”

Materials: Paper, pencils

Procedure: Tell your students to take out a sheet of paper and a pencil. (You are welcome to join them in this warm-up!) Ask them to write down as many of the wrong or bad things that they have done in the past year as they can think of, before you call “Time’s up!” Tell them to keep their papers to themselves.

Call “Go!” After about 3 minutes, call, “Stop! Pencils down!” Tell each student to report how many items they were able to come up with. Ask them if they had more time, could they have come up with even more stuff? (In their excitement they will probably exclaim, “Yes!”)

Ask for a show of hands: How many of them have items on their lists that made other people really mad? Did any of the things hurt someone else?

Now ask them to take another look at their list. Tell them to multiply the number by 90 (for

the number of years they will hopefully live to). Ask them to share their results. (The numbers should all be pretty big.)

Tell the students that 1 John 1:9 says that if we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and will forgive us and purify us. That means that between now and when they are very old, if they ask God for forgiveness, He will forgive them that many times! (And probably more because they may make the same mistakes more than once!)

Tell the students that in today’s lesson, they will learn how this mercy which God shows to them is related to the mercy that God wants them to show to others.

Cover the following in detail:

1. Peter’s question (Mt 18:21)
2. Jesus’ answer (Mt 18:22-35)
 - the unforgiving debtor

Emphasize the following:

- * We owe more to our Heavenly Father than anyone on earth possibly owes to us
- * God wants us to have the same mercy and patience towards others (esp. those already in the household of God) as He has towards us
- * We have no hope of being forgiven unless we forgive others from our hearts

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Q: When Jesus says that we should forgive seventy times seven times, does He mean this literally?

(No. Jesus did not mean this number literally. Rather, He used it to illustrate just how completely we ought to forgive — the way our Father in heaven forgives us.

Our heavenly Father not only forgives us but He keeps no record of our sins (Ps 130:3-4a). If He did keep a record of all the times we sinned against Him and of what we did, who could possibly be left standing with enough confidence and hope to pursue after Him? Rather, when we repent and seek His forgiveness, our Lord grants it to us with mercy and absoluteness. It’s another chance for us to do better or be better, without fear of the past to hinder our improvement.)

Q: How is it possible to forgive like that? Sometimes it’s just so

hard, even impossible!

(It's true. There will be times when forgiving someone will feel impossible to do because we feel so angry or upset over what they have done to us. We feel that they don't deserve our forgiveness or that they may do whatever they did, again!

Just remember, though, that whatever is impossible with men is possible with God! We can pray to God and ask Him to help us to do what is right and pleasing to Him. He will help us to forgive the other person and even to forget about what they have done to us! (Isn't that incredible?) If we think about how much God has done for us, how often we have made mistakes and asked for His forgiveness, it will help us to be merciful to the other person, too.)

Q: What happens if I don't forgive the other person?

(Most importantly, if we do not forgive others, then our Lord will not forgive us (Mt 18:35). If we do not forgive them, we just end up hurting ourselves. We keep thinking about what the other person did and it makes us feel angry or upset about it, even though it is in the past. Staying angry at the other person does not cause them to change their actions or behaviour. It only makes us feel unhappy.)

Q: Why would God want us to especially forgive our brothers and sisters in church?

(God wants us to do this because all of us are one family in Christ. Each member has been covered, purchased by His blood through baptism. Every single brother and sister is precious to Him.

While we are on earth, we have to take care of one another with the love that God has shown to us personally. We must help one another to reach our heavenly home. 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 lets us know that after a brother or sister has repented for doing something wrong, we should forgive them and comfort them. This way, they may

QUIZ

1. When Peter asked the Lord how many times he should forgive his brother, how many times did Jesus say?
(Seventy times seven times.)
2. How did Jesus illustrate his answer?
 - a. Jesus drew a picture in the ground with a stick
 - b. Jesus told a parable
 - c. Jesus gave a testimony
3. How big was the debt that the first servant owed to the master?
(That servant owed the master 10,000 talents.)
4. What did the master do when this servant begged him, "Be patient with me!" ?

(The master had pity on him, canceled the debt, and let him go.)

5. What was the size of the fellow servant's debt to the this first servant?
(The fellow servant owed the first servant 100 denarii.)
6. What did the first servant do to the fellow servant who couldn't pay him back?
(The first servant was unforgiving and had his fellow servant thrown into prison.)
7. What did the master do to the first servant when he found out about the unmerciful deed?
(The master had the first servant turned over to be tortured until he could pay back all that he owed.)
8. What kind of forgiveness does Jesus want us to have for each other?
(The same kind that our heavenly Father has for us — forgiveness that is merciful and absolute.)

LIFE APPLICATION STORY

Stephanie's Burden

"Stop following me, Courtney! You're always in my way! Go find something of your own to do! Stop bothering me!" said Stephanie angrily to her younger sister as she pushed all her stuff to another seat at the dining table. Courtney looked like she was going to cry.

"I'm sorry Stephanie. I'll be good," Courtney promised.

"Just go away, okay, Courtney? Can't you see that I'm busy?" It was true. Stephanie had a big book report to finish for school and it wasn't going very well. She felt frustrated because it was so hard to do and there was so much to do. Besides a written report, Stephanie had to make a poster about her book and present it in front of the whole class. Stephanie wished that she had started on the project sooner. Now she only had a week left to work on it. Courtney wasn't making things any easier by following her around and playing with her construction paper.

Courtney didn't want to leave. She liked being with Stephanie. Stephanie was good at drawing pictures and Courtney like to watch. Courtney didn't mean to make Stephanie upset. She just wanted to see the different colors of paper that Stephanie was using. Courtney wanted to stay, so she sat as still and quiet as she could. Stephanie looked up and Courtney was still there. Grrrr, Stephanie thought, Oh, I'll just ignore her!

Courtney sat still as long as she could. But when Stephanie began to draw, Courtney got up and went to look over her older sister's shoulder.

"Courtney! Stop breathing on me!" Stephanie snapped at her. "You're going to make me mess up!" So Courtney moved back a little bit. She had to stand on her tippy-toes and stretch out her neck so that she could catch a glimpse of what Stephanie was drawing. Suddenly, Courtney lost her balance. She swayed a bit on her toes and reached out to hold onto something so that she wouldn't fall backwards. One hand grabbed onto Stephanie's sleeve. The other grasped at the table but only got a fistful of color pencils. It was too late. Courtney ended up on the floor with Stephanie on top of her and colored pencils scattered around.

"OOOOOH!" Stephanie's voice was full of anger. She was so mad that she felt her face get hot. "Courtney, you dummy! I told you to go away! I'm gonna tell mom what a pest you are!

You're gonna get it!" Stephanie got up off of Courtney. Then Stephanie saw her beautiful poster. She couldn't believe it! It was torn, almost in half! She must have been holding on to the side of it when Courtney pulled her off the chair.

"Courtney!" Stephanie screamed, "Look what you made me do!"

Courtney was already scared at her sister's "OOOOOH!" but now when her sister screamed at her, Courtney began to cry.

Their father rushed into the dining room. "What is going on here?" Mr. Chang demanded. "What was that crash I heard and why all the shouting? Why is Courtney crying, Stephanie?"

Stephanie couldn't stand it. She was so angry at Courtney and upset that her beautiful poster was ruined – tears began rolling down her face, too.

Mr. Chang picked Courtney up off the ground and told her to stop crying. After checking for injuries and finding none, he told her to go to her room. Stephanie just sat next to the table with hot tears falling down her cheeks.

"Tell me what happened, Stephanie," her father said, sitting down next to her.

"Dad, I'm tired of Courtney following me around! I tell her not to, but she keeps doing it! She keeps bothering me and messing things up! Don't tell me that I'm older and that I should forgive her, because I can't! She'll just keep doing it again and again! I hate her, Dad! I hate her, I hate her, I hate her!" Stephanie shouted angrily before she ran to her room and banged the door shut behind her.

Much later, Stephanie's anger went away. She had managed to tape her poster back together but she was still sore at Courtney. When it was almost time for bed, Stephanie's parents called her and Lewis and Courtney out to pray. Courtney tried to smile at Stephanie, but Stephanie wouldn't look at her. She didn't want to be near Courtney so she knelt down at the opposite side of the room. Lewis wondered why his sisters were acting so weird. Their parents also noticed and they sighed sadly.

As they were praying, Stephanie tried to be earnest in her prayer, but she couldn't. For some reason, she didn't feel that God was listening to her. After they finished praying, Stephanie felt so troubled in her heart. Why wasn't God hearing her prayer?

Stephanie had this same feeling for the next couple of days. Finally, she couldn't bear it anymore. One night, Stephanie made an extra prayer by herself, after the family prayer. She asked God why she felt like He wasn't listening to her prayers. Why was He ignoring her? Stephanie started to cry because she thought maybe Jesus didn't love her anymore.

Suddenly, a thought came into Stephanie's mind. She could hear her own voice saying, "Don't tell me that I should forgive her, because I can't!" She heard it over and over again in her head. And then she remembered the parable that Jesus told his disciples about forgiveness. She remembered that Jesus had said they wouldn't receive forgiveness from God unless they forgave each other from their hearts.

Lord Jesus, is that why I keep having this strange feeling? Stephanie asked. In her heart she knew the answer. She knew that she ought to forgive Courtney, but Stephanie felt that she just couldn't because she really was angry with her sister. This made Stephanie cry even harder because she knew that if she didn't forgive Courtney from her heart, then Jesus would not forgive her or listen to her prayer. Help me, Lord Jesus! Stephanie cried in her heart. Help me to forgive Courtney because I can't do it on my own!

Miraculously, Stephanie felt a sudden peacefulness in her heart. She didn't feel angry at Courtney anymore. In fact, she felt very loving in her heart towards her little sister. Even when she tried to remember how angry she was, the feeling just wasn't there! It was like it had vanished! Jesus had really taken her burden away! Her tears became happy tears. Jesus had helped her to forgive her sister! Stephanie just kept praising God and thanking Him.

When she finished praying, Stephanie was shocked to see the time. She had never prayed

that long before! She thanked God for helping her to not even notice that the prayer was long.

As Stephanie lay in bed, she felt excited about the next morning. She looked forward to seeing Courtney and to smiling at her again.

Questions to think about...

1. Why was Stephanie unwilling to forgive Courtney?
2. Was God pleased with Stephanie's behaviour? How could Stephanie tell?
3. Why was it so important to Stephanie that she forgive Courtney?
4. What did Stephanie do when she realized that she couldn't forgive on her own?
5. If Stephanie refused to forgive Courtney, do you think that Jesus would have listened to her prayer and helped her?
6. How do you think Stephanie's anger at Courtney might have affected the family if she let it continue?

ACTIVITY 1

“To love is to forgive”

ACTIVITY 2

“To get mad or to forgive – that is the question!”

Purpose: To recognize the consequences of revenge and forgiveness

Materials: Index cards

Procedure: Distribute 2 blank index cards to each student. Tell them to number the cards 1 and 2, and then write down two things which someone did to them that made them really mad or upset.

After everyone has finished with their cards, collect the 1 and 2 cards in separate piles and shuffle each pile. Ask the students to sit in a circle and place the two stacks of index cards in the middle. (You can play off of one stack first and then the next, or you can alternate between the two stacks.)

Stack #1:

Going around the circle, each student will draw a card from the stack and read the situation aloud. The job of the reader is to come up with ideas of revenge. The rest of the students will come up with consequences to the vengeful action.

Stack #2

Again, students will take turns to draw a card. This time, however, the reader will come up with ideas of forgiveness . The rest of the students will come up with consequences to the forgiving action.

Afterwards, ask the students if they ever think of all these possible consequences when they are trying to decide what to do. Tell them that thinking things through will help them to see that forgiving is truly better than seeking revenge. Thinking things through will help them to do the right thing and God will bless them for it. Conclude with prayer.

Lesson 3

Just Enough is Enough For Me

Bible Texts:

Gen 14:17-24; 2 Kgs 5:1-27; Lk 22:3-6

Bible Truth:

God's people must not be greedy

Lesson Aim:

To be content with what the Lord has given us

Mem. Verse:

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'
(Hebrews 13:5)

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Contentment

Being "content" is feeling satisfied with what you have and feeling you have all that you need. From the Bible, we know that true contentment comes from God. Apostle Paul learned the secret to being content, no matter what the circumstances in his life. He found it was to trust in the Lord (Phil 4:11-13). King David voiced his contentment in God by saying that God's love is better than life itself, that God satisfied his soul like the richest of foods (Ps 63:3,5). Because he knew that God was his help, King David knew he would not have to worry and could sing praises to the Lord (Ps 63:7).

Greediness

Being "greedy" is when you forget or ignore what you already have or the value of those things and start wanting more than you need. You desire other people's things or lose restraint and judgment in your desire to have what you want. Adam and Eve forgot about all the things that the Lord had provided for them already (a wonderful home, abundant food, animals and each other for companionship, guidance to keep from evil) and made a bad decision when they ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:16-18, 3:6).