

FORGIVEN

February 25-26, 2012

Early Childhood
Leader Guide

3 – 5 Years Old

LESSON OVERVIEW

- Big Idea:** I'm SO thankful...I'm forgiven!
- Objective:** To value forgiveness
- Bible Story:** The sinful woman is forgiven after anointing Jesus' feet. (Luke 7:36-50)
- Bible Verse:** "If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins." 1 John 1:9 (NirV)



Teaching Notes

If you lead a preschooler to Christ, please pass on that child's name to Michelle Porcaro. We want to follow up with the parents so that they can build on any decisions made by their children, and we can't do that if we don't know who they are!

1 ACTIVITY CENTERS

SMALL GROUP TIME

30 min.



CAR CENTER



Let the kids take turns playing with the cars on the mats. If you are physically able, get down on the floor with them and engage via the cars! Enter into their imaginary world, and you might just have some fun!

STENCIL CENTER



Encourage the kids to draw with the stencil sets. This is more of a self-directed activity, but you can show attention to their drawings and praise their creativity.

GAME – CHARADES



Set a category, such as "animals" or "jobs people have." Have the kids take turns acting out different animals or occupations without using words or sounds. The rest of the group can guess what is being acted out. You may have to give a few examples or whisper some

suggestions to actors, such as: a roaring lion, a slithering snake, a bucking horse, (or for jobs) a sports athlete, a car mechanic, a teacher, or a clown.

2 REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSON

- Do you remember last week, when we heard about the man who built his house on the rock? He was like people who hear what Jesus says and do it too!
- Last week, we learned that it's not enough just to hear what Jesus says. Real followers of Jesus do what he says. They bear fruit, like a healthy fruit tree, of good words and good actions. When life brings us problems, we can choose to follow Jesus' answers. That's what followers of Jesus do when we have problems.
- Does anyone remember the Bible point from last week?

I've got a problem... Jesus has the answer!

3 LESSON INTRODUCTION

ILLUSTRATION – FORGIVENESS

What you need: Lots of candy, large bucket

What you do: Illustrate how much we have been forgiven.

Let's pretend that every time we sinned, we owed Jesus a piece of candy. First, who knows what sin is? Sin is when we disobey God. Who can tell me a sin? For every sin named or described by the kids, place one piece of candy in pile and say something like. **Uh-oh, now I owe Jesus another piece of candy.** After you have a pile of 5-10 pieces, ask, **How many sins do you think we do in a day? In a week? In a month? Add more pieces of candy to the pile until it is overflowing. Where would we get enough candy to pay Jesus for all of our sins? There's too much sin! We don't have enough candy!**

Well kids, here's the bad news... We do owe God something for our sin, and there is no way we can pay him back or make it up to him. Even if we do 1,000 good things, it can't make up for the sins we do. We are guilty for sin, and no amount of doing good can undo it.

But here's the good news... Jesus offers to forgive our sins! He says, if we'll just confess our sins and ask him for forgiveness, he will wipe it all away. Scoop the whole pile of candy into the bucket. All clean! When we are forgiven, we aren't guilty anymore! We don't have to try to pay back for our sins! And best of all, we won't be punished for our sins like we deserve. Instead, we are accepted by Jesus and loved by him!

Today, we will learn about a person who was judged by many people because she was such a bad person. She owed God a lot for all her sins. But Jesus did something for her that made her super happy! What do you think it is?

Transition to LARGE Group Time

**4** WELCOME & WORSHIP**5** STORY TIME

Transition to SMALL Group Time

**6** SNACK & REVIEW TIME

Hand out a snack for the children. As they are eating, review the lesson.

- **Who was the person that was forgiven in today's Bible story?** *The sinful woman*
- **What did she do because she loved Jesus so much?** *She washed Jesus' dirty feet with expensive perfume and her tears.*
- **Why did she love Jesus so much?** *Because he accepted and forgave her, even though she had done bad things*
- **Are we better than the sinful woman?** *No, we all sin, and sin separates us from God.*
- **How can we be forgiven?** *If we confess our sins to God, he will always forgive us!*
- **How does that make us feel when we are forgiven?** *Happy, thankful*

We can be thankful for our homes, our families, our toys, and our food, but we need to not forget to be thankful for what matters most! If we couldn't be forgiven, we would always be guilty and punished for our sin after we die. Since we can be forgiven, we can have peace with God, we are accepted by him, and can live happily with Jesus after we die!

Note: Be prepared to lead kids to salvation if they are unsure of if they are forgiven or not.

Have the children clean up after their snack and memorize the Big Idea for today: I'm so thankful...I'm forgiven!

7 ACTIVITIES AND CENTERS

Bring out the same centers out that you had at the beginning of your class. Encourage the children to try a center that they were not able to do earlier.

8 GOODBYE

Challenge the kids to thank God for being forgiven this week.

Greet parents, check security tags, and say goodbye to children by name!