
Lesson 4 - God's Forgiveness

OVERVIEW: In the previous lessons we focused on family celebrations, the Church's celebrations, and the life of Jesus. In this lesson we learn about God's love and forgiveness.

IN THIS LESSON WE WILL:

- Learn about the Apostle Peter
- Learn about forgiveness
- Learn about our need to forgive others

VOCABULARY VIDEO: Start lesson by reviewing any vocabulary you might not know. The videos for this lesson are on the website under the Video Library > Glossary of Terms. The vocabulary terms for this lesson are:

- Sheep
- Peter
- Rooster
- Die
- Deny
- Flock
- Faith
- Shepherd
- Forgive

LESSON: Read together with your child the story of Peter denying Jesus found in Matthew 26: 31 – 35. Review the story with your child to make sure they know what happened.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS (share the following with your child): Jesus shows us that love also means being able to forgive. We know that Peter traveled with Jesus and learned to love Jesus, but when things were scary Peter acted like he did not even know who

Jesus was. After his death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter and forgave him. Jesus loves us just as much as he loved Peter.

ACTIVITY: This activity is to help us understand that Jesus forgives us our mistakes and asks us to do the same for others.

What you will need: Old white t-shirt, washable markers, bleach, scissors, large (non-wooden) spoon, sink and water.

Steps:

1. Fill the sink with a few inches of water.
2. Fill one cup (8 - 12 oz) with bleach and sit it beside the sink.
3. Lay the t-shirt out and draw a large heart on either the front or the back
4. Cut the heart out of the t-shirt.
5. Together come up with as many things as you can that are hurtful (lying, name calling, gossiping, etc) and that we do that we know we should not (being mean to siblings, saying no to parents, bad words, etc). These do not have to be only things you have done, but things that you have seen others do as well.
6. Write as many of these as you can on the t-shirt heart.
7. Together think about how these things hurt others, or hurt us.
8. Go together to the sink filled partially with water, and submerge the heart into the water.
9. Slowly pour the bleach into the water, and move it around with a large (non-wooden) spoon.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS (share the following with your child): As the words start to fade from the fabric, talk to your child about how this is what forgiveness look like.

The words may not completely disappear, and forgiveness does not mean that what was hurtful never happened. Instead forgiveness means that we get to start over and try to be less hurtful in the future. Forgiveness from God means we are closer to where we started – more like the white heart without all the mean words instead of being like the heart filled with hurtful things.