

Jesus Forgives A Woman

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Don't point out what others do wrong but try to see what you do wrong!

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5

Memory Verse: Do not judge, or you too will be judged. - Matthew 7:1

The Children's Sermon

One day very early in the morning Jesus went to the temple to teach the people (the temple is like a church where Jewish people went to study God's word.

As Jesus sat down to teach a group of men brought a woman into him, they were tattle tales. Does anyone know what a tattle tale is? Tattling isn't always bad if someone is hurt or could be hurt you should tell someone! But these men were tattling just so they would look good and to try and trick Jesus. Have you ever tattled just to get someone else in trouble or so you would look like the good person? They asked Jesus what they should do with this woman who had done something really really bad. Jesus didn't answer them he knelt down to the dirt and started writing with His finger.

They continued to question Jesus, "Our law says when someone does something this BAD all of us should throw rocks at her and hurt her really bad. What do you say we should do, Jesus?"

Jesus stood up and said, "Whoever has never sinned may throw the first rock!"

The men looked at what Jesus had written in the dirt with His finger and one by one, from the oldest to the youngest, they left the temple. Now the bible doesn't tell us what Jesus wrote in the dirt but maybe it was something each one of these men had done wrong just in case they had forgotten.

Do any of you like to forget what you have done wrong and point a finger at someone else for what they are doing wrong?

Jesus asked the woman, "Where have they all gone?" She said, "All of them that said I had done something wrong have left." Jesus said, "I forgive you too, now go home and don't do that bad thing ever again!" The woman was so happy she went home with a thankful heart and knew she would try never to do that really bad thing again. Have you ever done anything really bad and asked God to forgive you? Are you going to try and never do it again to make God happy?

God wants us to forgive each other and to look at what we do wrong and not to point our finger at others because they do wrong, we should set an example and help others do the right thing also. Forgiveness in the Bible is a big deal. It's like when you accidentally break your friend's toy, and they say, "It's okay, I forgive you." It makes you feel better and helps you both be friends again.

Let's talk more about forgiveness in the Bible. Imagine you're playing in the park, and someone takes your toy without asking. You might feel really mad or sad, right? But then, they say sorry and give it back. If you forgive them, it's like opening a door to play and have fun together again. Jesus teaches us that when we forgive, we open our hearts to more happiness and friendship.

Sometimes, forgiving can be really hard. Maybe someone keeps being mean, or you're just so hurt. But forgiveness in the Bible teaches us something special – it's not just for the person who did something wrong, it's for us too. When we forgive, we let go of being angry or sad, and that makes us feel lighter and happier.

Jesus showed us the best example of forgiveness. Even when people were not kind to Him, He still loved them and forgave them. He wants us to do the same. It's like if you have a backpack full of rocks, and each rock is something bad someone did to you. If you keep carrying it, it's going to be so heavy! But if you take the rocks out, you'll feel so much better. Forgiving is like taking those rocks out of your backpack.

Forgiveness in the Bible is also about saying sorry. When we do something wrong, it's important to say, "I'm sorry," and try not to do it again. Just like the woman in our story, when we say sorry and mean it, Jesus forgives us. And that's a wonderful feeling!

Another important thing about forgiveness in the Bible is that it's something we should do over and over again. Jesus didn't say to forgive just once; He said we should keep forgiving, just like He does with us. It's like if you're playing a game and someone keeps making mistakes. Instead of getting mad every time, you help them and give them another chance. That's what forgiveness is all about.

Forgiveness in the Bible teaches us to be like Jesus, to love others, and to be kind, even when it's hard.

So, next time you're feeling upset or mad at someone, remember the story of Jesus and the woman. Think about how you can forgive and make things right. It might just be the start of a beautiful friendship or a chance to feel happy and light again.

Bible Memory Verse

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. - Matthew 7:1

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large, eyeglass shapes. Each child will need two pieces.
- Write 'Matthew 7:1' on one side of each eyeglass shape.

Do This:

1. Give each child two eyeglass shapes and markers or crayons. Ask them to decorate one side with things they like about themselves and the other side with 'Matthew 7:1'.
2. Once they are done, help them tape the ends of the eyeglasses together so they can wear them. Explain that when we look at others through our 'judgment glasses', we should remember Matthew 7:1 and try to see the good in others instead of judging.
3. Have the children wear their glasses and look at each other, sharing one thing they like or admire about the other person. This helps them practice seeing the good in others instead of judging.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large cardboard box
- Markers or paints

- Sticky notes
- A mirror (small enough to fit inside the box)
- Bible or printed scripture: Matthew 7:1-5

Get Ready:

1. Cut a hole on one side of the box, big enough for kids to look through.
2. Inside the box, opposite the hole, securely attach the mirror so it can be seen through the hole.
3. Write "What do you see?" on the outside of the box around the hole.
4. Prepare sticky notes by writing common faults or mistakes kids might make, like "not sharing," "being unkind," etc., on some, and positive actions like "helping others," "being patient," etc., on others.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Matthew 7:1-5 together, focusing on the message of looking at our own mistakes before pointing out others'.
2. Explain the activity: Each child will have a turn to look into the box through the hole. When they look inside, they'll see their own reflection.
3. Ask them to pick a sticky note without looking at the words and stick it on their shirt. Without revealing what's on their note, they should then look into the box.
4. After looking into the box, they can read their sticky note. Discuss how seeing their own reflection and the note's message might relate to the scripture's lesson about focusing on our own actions and choices.
5. Encourage a group discussion where the children can share if they've ever focused too much on others' faults and how they can shift that focus towards improving themselves, inspired by the lesson from the box and the scripture.

Snack Activity: Mirror Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (pre-baked, one per child)
- Icing (white and other colors)
- Edible markers
- Small mirrors or reflective foil

Get Ready: Bake or buy plain sugar cookies before the class. Prepare icing and place it in small bowls, one for each color. Set up a decorating station with all the materials laid out.

Do this:

1. Give each child a sugar cookie and a small mirror or a piece of reflective foil. Ask them to look into the mirror and see themselves. Explain that sometimes, we only look at what others do wrong, just like when we look at others instead of ourselves in the mirror.
2. Invite the children to use the white icing to draw a big eye on their cookie. This represents our own eye. Then, using the edible markers, they can add details around the eye or on the rest of the cookie to make it unique, just like each of us is unique.
3. Encourage the kids to think about something they need to work on themselves instead of pointing out what others do wrong. As they eat their cookie, remind them that when we 'consume' or think about our own actions and how we can improve, we become better friends and followers of Jesus, just like Matthew 7:1-5 teaches us not to focus on the faults of others but on our own.

Game Activity: Mirror Maze

You'll Need:

- A large room or outdoor space
- Several large mirrors (or cardboard cutouts shaped like mirrors)
- Sticky notes and pens

Get Ready: Arrange the mirrors or cardboard cutouts throughout the space to create a simple maze. On each 'mirror', attach a sticky note.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that in this game, they are going on a journey through a maze to learn about seeing themselves as others see them, just like in Matthew 7:1-5. Tell them the goal is to navigate the maze, but there's a special rule: whenever they reach a 'mirror', they must stop and write something they need to improve about themselves on the sticky note.
2. Let the children start the maze one at a time. As they progress, they'll reflect on their own actions and behaviors, writing them down before moving on.
3. At the end of the maze, gather the children and discuss the experience. Highlight the importance of focusing on our own improvements instead of pointing out others' faults. Encourage them to think about how they can apply what they've learned in their daily lives.

Craft Activity: Mirror of Truth

You'll Need:

- A small mirror or reflective paper
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Glue

- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut out a mirror shape from the construction paper. This will be the frame for the small mirror or reflective paper.

Do this:

1. Glue the small mirror or reflective paper onto the center of the construction paper mirror frame. Let it dry.
2. On the top of the mirror frame, write 'Let's look at ourselves first!' with markers or crayons.
3. Around the frame, draw or write things that we might do wrong sometimes, like 'not sharing,' 'being unkind,' or 'not listening.' Discuss how it's easy to see what others do wrong, but Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:1-5 to look at our own actions first. Use the mirror to remind us to see our own reflections and actions before pointing out others'.

Prayer Activity: Mirror of the Heart

You'll Need:

- Small mirrors or reflective paper
- Markers
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: Prepare a small mirror or a piece of reflective paper for each child. Place markers and sticky notes on a table accessible to the children.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the children that today we are going to learn about looking at ourselves before pointing out what others do wrong, based on Matthew 7:1-5. Explain that sometimes, it's easier to see the mistakes others make than to see our own.
2. Give each child a mirror or a piece of reflective paper and ask them to look into it. While they are looking at their reflection, encourage them to think about times they might have pointed out someone else's mistake instead of looking at their own actions.
3. After a moment of reflection, ask the children to write or draw on a sticky note something they want to ask God to help them improve about themselves. It could be being more patient, not getting angry quickly, or being a better listener. Then, have them stick their notes onto the back of their mirror or reflective paper as a reminder to focus on their own actions and how they can be better, rather than focusing on others' mistakes. Close the activity with a short prayer, asking God to help each of us see our own mistakes and to help us grow and be better every day.