

Week 3- Moving on After Messing Up

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus forgives when we mess up.

OBJECTIVE: Kids will identify one way they can encourage themselves and someone else after a failure.

KEY PASSAGE: John 18:15-18, 25-27; and 21:15-17; Peter denies Jesus and is restored to ministry.

SUMMARY: Most people are afraid of failure. But we can bounce back from problems—even problems that we created—when we remember that Jesus loves us, no matter what. His love is a bright light of courage shining into our darkest fears.

Lesson

INTRO: In the last couple of weeks we've talked about a lot of things that scare us and about worries and doubts that bother us. Can you remember any of them?

These things are scary to some people, but not to everyone. Today, we're going to talk about one thing that scares everyone. What do you think it is? (allow for some guessing)

We're going to talk about when we mess up. When's the last time you messed up? When is the last time you willfully or accidentally did something you know you shouldn't? You don't have to share, but I am guessing we've all been there at least once or twice in the past week.

We played too rough and broke something in the living room. We got angry and said some words we shouldn't have. We let down a friend, broke a promise, or just did something a little silly and boneheaded.

Messing up can be downright terrifying. Think about it this way: would you rather go home this afternoon, open your closet, and see a bug-eyed monster staring back at you? Or would you rather go and face your father and tell him that the baseball bat slipped from your hand and broke the windshield of his brand new car? (allow everyone to answer)

One man in the Bible knew how terrifying messing up could be. His name was Peter, and Peter had one of the most famous mess-ups in the Bible: when he had the chance to stand up for Jesus, he denied ever knowing him!

READ JOHN 18:15-18, 25-27

Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. Earlier that night he vowed to follow Jesus anywhere, even to death! Jesus told Peter, "Before the night is over, you will deny me three times." Peter was warned and he still messed up! But that's not the end of the story. After Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter and Jesus would talk again. This is one of the most important passages in the Bible because it's the one that shows us that Jesus can forgive anyone, no matter how bad we've messed up!

READ JOHN 21:15-17

MAIN POINT: Peter messed up. It wasn't an accident either. He knew what he was doing. He was warned it would happen. He did it three times, just as Jesus said he would.

If it's hard for us to face Mom and Dad when we mess up, it had to be incredibly hard for Peter to face Jesus. But what does Jesus say? "Feed my sheep." In other words, welcome back. I forgive you. Now it's time to get back to serving me.

Jesus knows we are going to stumble and always mess up. He gave us this moment with Peter to show us that no matter how much we mess up, we don't have to be afraid. We can be forgiven, just like Peter.

DRIVE IT HOME: The truth is Jesus isn't the one who has a hard time forgiving you when you mess up. The person who has a hard time forgiving is you. We all beat ourselves up over our mess-ups, and when we've really done something bad, often times everyone else will forgive us long before we can forgive ourselves.

Asking Jesus is the first step to finding that forgiveness. When we realize that Jesus still loves us, that we are still his child, we can begin to forgive ourselves. We can get back to feeding God's sheep and loving others.

You know a great way to do that? Forgive other people. When someone does something that hurts you, on purpose or on accident, forgive him. When they ask you why, tell them about Peter and Jesus on the beach. Tell them that Jesus loves them and will always forgive them. Tell them that you are forgiving them because you have been forgiven too.

Messing up is human. It's what we do. It doesn't have to be scary. When you mess up, remember that Jesus loves you. Ask Jesus to forgive you, and ask him to help you forgive yourself. And when someone else messes up, be quick to forgive that person too. In this way we can all remind one another and show the world that Jesus loves mess-ups. He loves us, no matter what we've done.

3rd-5th grade DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What did Jesus tell Peter he would do the night Jesus was arrested?

Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus? What did Jesus ask Peter on the beach?

What did Jesus mean by, "Feed my sheep"?

How can we remind ourselves, and each other, that Jesus will forgive our mess-ups?

Pre-K- 2nd grade DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus?

What did Jesus mean by, "Feed my sheep"?

Why did Jesus forgive Peter?

How can we remind ourselves that Jesus will forgive our mess-ups?

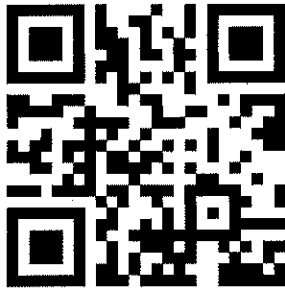
How can we let others know that Jesus will forgive them?

Prayer Time

As a family take time to pray for things you are scared of. Remind your children that we are going to give our fears to God. Write prayer requests and praises and continue to pray for them through the week.

Activities

1. Play a game of Simon Says. How many people end up messing up before the game is over?
2. Danish Forgiveness Heart (included in packet)
3. Coloring sheet (included in packet)
4. Complete a fun glow in the dark project, check out Laura's Pinterest board! Try a bouncy ball recipe- because Jesus allows us to bounce back! <https://pin.it/5qecAPH>



5. Check out RightNow Media for videos supporting this week's lesson.

Memory Verse

Read the memory verse as a family. Practice saying this as a family, find ways to make it fun. Look for ideas on the next page and the Pinterest board.

Idea for this week: Read the memory verse aloud for each kid. Each time you do, leave out one word. See if the kids can tell you which word you left out.

Fill in the missing word challenge. See who can say the missing word first, take turns being the announcer allowing multiple plays to memorize the verse.

For younger children who cannot read- read the verse to them and then have them repeat the verse to you. For the first week have them repeat every one or 2 words, then progressively give them bigger chunks of 3-5 words. This week wait a few seconds to see if your child can say the words before you!



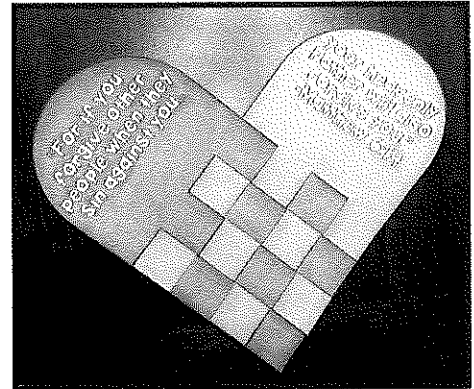
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY ACTIVITIES

CRAFT

Danish Forgiveness Heart

Materials:

- Danish Heart Printable Craft (one pages)
- White Paper or Cardstock
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Glue

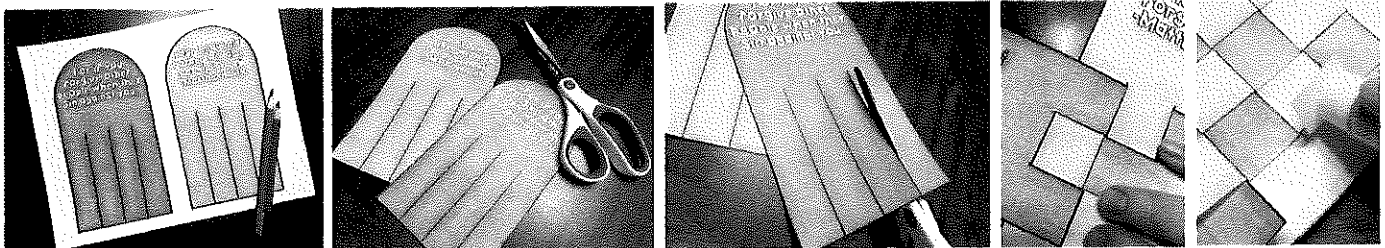


Preparation:

- Print one copy of Danish Heart craft for each student

Instructions:

1. Color page as desired
2. Carefully cut out pieces, making sure that the cuts on the strips go all the way to the end.
3. Starting with the two pieces, making sure that the beginning of the scripture is on the left and the end of the scripture is on the right, angle the pieces toward each other and lace together to form a lattice. If pieces don't align exactly, carefully push the strips upwards to the top of the heart until they lie correctly.
4. Glue the last overlapping pieces on the outside to hold the heart together.



**"For if you
forgive other
people when they
sin against you...**

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**your heavenly
Father will also
forgive you."
-Matthew 6:14**

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Forgiveness Coloring Page



Jesus
teaches
me to
forgive.

Be kind,
and forgive one
another.

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: MOVING ON AFTER MESSING UP



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Most people are afraid of failure. But we can bounce back from problems—even problems that we created—when we remember that Jesus loves us, no matter what.

His love is a bright light of courage shining into our darkest fears. John 18:15-18, 25-27; and 21:15-17; Peter denies Jesus and is restored to ministry.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Next time there's a spill or a mess up in the house, pause for a moment with your kids. Remember that Jesus forgives our mess-ups. Thanks Jesus for his forgiveness. Then work together to fix the mess.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did Peter do that made him ashamed?
- What did Jesus do when he saw Peter after he rose from the grave?
- Can Jesus forgive all of our mess-ups?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"[Jesus] said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12b (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Parents can go a long way to showing their kids how forgiving God is. Pray that God will give you a spirit of loving forgiveness. Discipline when necessary, and teach your kids they have a responsibility to set things right, but always, always forgive.