

WELCOME TO OUR FOURTH SERIES OF FAMILY LESSONS

Throughout the Series you will find:

1. Various ways to pray
2. Relationship building with others
3. Connections with Christian community
4. Mission and outreach

WEEK #1 (6-27-21) Walking in the Light

KEY WORD: Grace (the amazing, FREE gift of forgiveness that God offers everyone who believes. Grace in Christianity is something that is given to someone by God when it is not necessarily deserved or earned.)

MEMORY VERSE *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift from God.” Ephesians 2:8*

SCRIPTURE: John 8:1-11 NIV

1... but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

APPLICATION/MESSAGE : The woman who was dragged before Jesus had SINNED. (SIN means she has done something that God considers wrong and is hurtful to ourselves and others around us.) The Pharisees wanted Jesus to let them kill her by throwing big stones at her because of what she had done. In *their* opinion, she was too bad to live. Without realizing it, the Pharisees (religious leaders) showed the condition of their hearts to Jesus. They were too quick to see OTHERS’ mistakes. We should **not** be quick to point out the sins of **others**, because in doing so, **we may be blind to our own sins**. Then Jesus paused, knelt down, and wrote something in the dirt as He listened to their charges against her.

When they were done blaming her, Jesus said that any of the Pharisees who had NEVER sinned, should throw the first stone. (*That was such a wise idea!*) Jesus knew that EVERYONE sins. Jesus also knew that while the Pharisees may have not done the exact same sin that the woman did, **they all knew that they had done SOME kind of sin in their lives.** Jesus was sure that none of them would dare to say they were perfect. **He was right!** The Pharisees all put their rocks down and walked away! Jesus asked the woman if there was anyone left to condemn her to death. When she said there was no one, Jesus told her that He didn't condemn her either. BUT, **Jesus did tell her to go and not sin anymore.**

That's like us. No one is perfect. Everyone of us, people of all ages, make mistakes. But if we are truly sorry, and ask God to forgive us for our mistakes, just like Jesus forgave the woman, He will also forgive us. And just like the woman, Jesus wants us to walk away from sin and into His love. Through compassion, confrontation, and forgiveness Jesus models how we are to do the same for others. Our relationships are much more important than our difficulties. Remember, we are all created in His image and are worthy of His LOVE. This is truly "walking in the light." **Can you forgive others like Jesus does?**

What are the 3 phrases parents teach their little children to say to be nice, kind, and respectful of others? "**I'm sorry.**" "**Please.**" "**Thank you.**" Let's use those 3 phrases to learn to ask for forgiveness when we SIN (*doing something that God considers wrong and hurtful to ourselves and others around us*) by praying for forgiveness.

"**I'm sorry** Jesus that I _____."

"**Please** forgive me for _____."

"**Thank you,** Jesus, for loving me enough to forgive me. I will do my very best, with your help, to not _____ again. Amen"

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift of GRACE in our lives. We are truly sorry for hurting you and others with our SIN. Please forgive us and help us to forgive others who may have hurt us. Help strengthen us to walk in your LIGHT so that others may see you. Thank you for continuing to transform our hearts, minds, souls, and strength to reflect the LOVE you have shown us. We ask this in Your Son, Jesus' precious name, Amen

SONG: "YOU FORGIVE ME" @ <https://youtu.be/LO-2fm7IKcU>

CHILDREN AND/OR GROUP HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

(On not judging others without judging ourselves first? On recognising Sin? On practicing forgiveness - again and again and again...)

- Watch this lesson to help understand **Grace**: https://youtu.be/F_tib8gemLM
- Place powdered jello, sugar, shaving cream or something similar on a cookie sheet. Use your finger to “write” in the ingredient just as Jesus did. You could write something you would like **forgiveness for**, someone’s name you would like Jesus to help you forgive, or write the word **GRACE** as a reminder of the forgiveness you have in Christ.
- Think about other times in the Bible that God used His “finger” to convey an important message. Ten Commandments (*Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Exodus 20:2-17*), Writing on the Wall (*Daniel 5*), Jesus driving away demons (*Matthew 8: 29-8-29*).
(Take time to look up the word “finger” in the back of your Bible and read about God’s “hand” in our lives.)
- Point your finger at someone else. Look at your hand. Notice that you actually have MORE fingers pointing at yourself. Let this remind you to not point out or judge the sins of others before you look in the mirror and admit your own sins.

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN AND/OR GROUP OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Max Lucado has said about God that **“His dream isn’t just to get you into heaven, but to get heaven into you.”** What does this mean to you? How can you “let” God do this? Discuss as a family what it means to each of you.
- Do you say **“Grace”** before meals? This word “Grace” is also another word for a meal prayer. (*Remember the word “Grace” we have been talking about is a “free gift” from God. When we believe, we can be forgiven of our sins and receive this “free gift” because of what Christ has done for us.*)
- Think about today’s lesson and **talk/pray with God about what you have learned**. As you go about your week, **watch for ways in which God will bring this message to your heart**. You may even have an opportunity to share it with someone else.
- Draw a large PRAYER BUBBLE (like below) on a piece of paper. **Write a prayer for you and your family to say** every night before bed, or every morning before getting out of bed. Tape it to the wall near your bed where you can see it. **(You can also draw YOURSELF praying and draw a bubble around your prayer.)**

Draw a large PRAYER BUBBLE



This is
amazing

Grace

DELIVERED

forgiven

CHOSEN

loved

