

Kindergarten

April 2020

Materials needed: Lesson 7 *Jesus Tells Stories* and Lesson 18 *God Forgives*. (These handouts have been mailed to all Kindergarten families.); pencils, crayons or markers; scissors

PARENT BACKGROUND

One of Jesus' primary methods for teaching people about God was through parables. These parables were told in the common language of the people. Jesus talked about God using simple language and stories about things that would have been commonplace in his day...shepherds and sheep...a sower planting seeds...workers in a vineyard, etc.

One of the more well-known parables in scripture is the story of the Prodigal Son and his forgiving father. Because God has shown us love and mercy, like the forgiving father, we should also be willing to love and show mercy to one another. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Our ability to receive God's gift of forgiveness depends in part on our openness to share that gift with others.

Before you begin the lesson with your child, review the handouts, especially the parent notes on the back pages for additional background and suggestions.

LESSON PLAN

Open with prayer:

Say, "We can say that Jesus is a teacher. He teaches us many things. He teaches us to share what we have...he teaches us to be kind to others...he teaches us to forgive people that have been mean to us...he teaches us that all people are loved by God. Let's take a minute to think about some of the things that Jesus has taught us...."

"Now, let's make the Sign of the Cross together...."

Pray this simple prayer together: "Thank you, Jesus our teacher!"

JESUS TELLS STORIES (Lesson 7)

Explain:

Jesus often taught people by telling stories. We call these stories parables. Parables are stories about everyday things that help us learn something about God. Today we are going to learn about two parables that Jesus told. Let's look at the first page of Lesson 7, Jesus Tells Stories, and read about Jesus and what he tells us about prayer. The story about the man knocking on the friend's door is a parable.

Ask: "How are you like the man knocking when you talk to God in prayer? The man asked for bread. What would you ask God for?"

Turn to the second page of the Activity sheet. Ask your child the first two "Ask Me!" questions and review the answers.

Point out the center activity. Explain the activity to your child and have him/her complete.

GOD FORGIVES (Lesson 18)

Explain: Our second parable is about a son who leaves home and things don't go very well for him. When he decided to come home his father forgave him with open arms. Let's read about this son and his forgiving father on the first page of Lesson 18, God Forgives.

Ask: "When do you forgive others? When have you been forgiven?"

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your Child the "Ask Me!" questions and review the answers.

Point out the center activity and invite your child to describe what he/she sees. Explain the activity to your child and have him/her complete it.

Give your child the God Always Forgives Us heart puzzle activity. Invite your child to color the puzzle, cut it out, and see if he/she can put the pieces back together to make a heart.

Refer back to the efaith page <https://www.maryofthevisitation.com/-efaith> to access this month's People of Inspiration story in the Adult / Family resources column, and the April Trading Cards in the Youth Resources column. These activities can be done together with your family.

Conclude your lesson by praying the Our Father together.

