

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 17

Forgiveness of Sin

Scripture: I John 1:9; Mark 2:1-12

Objects to have:

Chalk and chalkboard

A cardboard box made to look like a house; cut an opening in the top and cut a door in the front of the box also

A rectangular piece of paper or cloth with strings tied at the corners

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

What is Jesus like? We wonder sometimes. Today I am going to tell you one thing about Him. The one thing that I will tell you today is that Jesus is forgiving. What is something about Jesus that I will tell you today? Yes, that Jesus is forgiving.

Here is an example of forgiveness. Freddie hit Eddie. Freddie hit Eddie hard. Freddie and Eddie were outside playing together. Eddie was running past Freddie and accidentally bumped into Freddie. Freddie didn't like it that Eddie bumped into him, and so he hit him. Eddie said, "If that's the way you want to be, Freddie, then I don't want to play with you. I told you that I'm sorry I bumped into you. I am going home. I don't want to be with you right now." Eddie went home.

Freddie thought about what he had done, and then he was sorry. Freddie ran to Eddie's house. He knocked on the door. Eddie's mother came to the door. "Is Eddie in the house? I would like to tell him that I'm sorry I hit him."

Eddie's mother called Eddie to the door. Freddie said to Eddie, "Eddie, I am sorry that I hit you."

Eddie said to Freddie, "That's all right, Freddie. Mom says I can go out to play again. Would you like to play with me?" Eddie forgave Freddie for hitting him. Eddie forgot all about what Freddie had done. After Freddie said that he was sorry, then they played together until it was time for both of them to go into their houses to eat lunch.

That's the way Jesus is. Jesus is forgiving when we tell Him about our sins. I'll show you on the chalkboard what happens if we do not tell Him about our sins. (On the chalkboard draw a line. Call that line, Jesus. To the right of that line draw another line. Call that line, us. Then say, "When we do wrong, this is what happens." Draw a shaded area between the two lines.) Our sins come between us and God. Our sins separate us from God. Now let's tell Jesus about our sins and let Him know that we are sorry for them. Look what happens now. (Erase the shaded area between God and us.) I know a Bible story that explains about forgiveness.

Telling the story:

The Bible tells about a man who could not walk. The man lived in the city of Capernaum. The man had some friends who felt sorry for him because he couldn't walk. They helped him. Perhaps they took food to him. Perhaps they came to his home each day to help him clean house or wash his clothes or take him wherever he needed to go. As the man's friends would come to his home and leave him again, he probably thought, "I wish I could get up from my bed and walk. I wish I could go from place to place as my friends can do. It is wonderful that they care enough about me to take me places by carrying me on my bed, but I wish I could walk by myself."

All the people of Capernaum went about their daily lives. The men of the town would go from their homes at night and get into their fishing ships and fish all night. When morning would come, they would bring their ships to shore, unload all the fish they had caught, wash their nets, and sell their fish. Each day the children of the town would laugh and play together. They would do the jobs that Mother or Daddy told them to do. Each day the mommies would wash clothes and cook meals and clean their houses.

One day was different from all the other days. On that day there was a lot of excitement in the city of Capernaum. The news went from house to house and person to person, "Jesus has come back to our city." The people knew Who Jesus was. He had made sick people well when He was there before. He had told them about Heaven and about our Heavenly Father when He was there before. The people learned that He was there again.

Many of the people said, "Where is Jesus staying?" They found out where Jesus was. (Set up the house in front of the children.) They learned in what house Jesus was staying. ("Walk" your fingers to the house in great excitement showing the children a picture of the people hurrying to the house where Jesus was.) "I am going to go see Jesus, are you?" Many agreed that they wanted to go see Jesus. They left their homes, or the seashore, or their fishing ships, or their places of business and went to the house where Jesus was staying. Many, many people came to this house and went in.

Soon the house was full of people, and no more could get in. They were packed in as closely as they could get. The next people who came to the house had to stand on the outside and just hope to get to see Jesus. If he talked loudly enough, perhaps they could hear Him. They stood around the house, watching and listening.

The news came to the house where the man who could not walk lay on his bed. This bed did not have legs like ours. His bed was like a thick quilt on which he lay. His friends came running to him. "Jesus is in Capernaum. Would it be all right if we carried you to Jesus? He could help you, you know."

The man on the bed said, "Oh, yes. I would like to get to Jesus. I need His help." The friends of the man carried him to the house where Jesus was. They were not the only ones on the road leading to the house. There were many other people hurrying along, also. As they got closer to the house, it seemed as if they saw nothing but people, I am sure. There was a great crowd of people. They could probably hardly see the house for all the people around it. The crowd was so great they could not begin to get to the door of the house, let alone get inside the house where Jesus was. What should they do? They had brought their friend to get the help which Jesus could give him. They tried going around the crowd to the sides of the house, but they could not get near the house. The crowd of people was too great. How terrible! They wanted their friend to get to Jesus!

Then they had an idea. They decided that they could climb the stairs on the outside of the house to the roof. They would break up the roof and let the man down through the roof to Jesus. Would their plan work? It was worth trying. There was no other way to get to Jesus.

The four friends of the man who could not walk very carefully carried him on his bed up the stairs to the roof. His four friends could each carry a corner of the bed on which the man lay. They very carefully carried him up the stairs so that they would not drop him and also so that he would not slide off the bed. Ah, they finally got to the top of the stairs. They stepped from the stairs over the edge of the roof onto the roof, still being very careful not to fall nor drop their friend.

They got to the part of the roof which was directly over where Jesus sat inside the house. The roof had squares of tile on it. The four friends worked very carefully to loosen the tiles on the roof. They were making a hole in the roof by lifting the tiles. They kept working as quickly as they could and as carefully as they could. They had to make the hole big enough to let their friend down through it. Ah, now they could look through the hole in the roof and see Jesus below in the room. There were people all around Jesus. The hole was finally big enough. They had some rope, and they tied the rope to the corners of the bed. They let their friend down through the hole in the roof. Down, down, down he went until his bed touched the floor right in front of Jesus. Can you imagine how surprised the people around Jesus were to see this bed coming down from the

ceiling toward them? Naturally, they pushed back to make room. Jesus saw the trust that the friends and this man had in Him. They knew that Jesus could help the man.

Jesus looked at the man and said, *“Thy sins be forgiven thee.”* What a strange way to greet the man! He did not ask him what he wanted. The man did not have a chance to tell Him what he wanted, but Jesus knew the heart of the man. I think that as soon as the man saw Jesus, the man thought to himself, “What am I doing here with Jesus? Jesus is perfect. He has never sinned. I have sinned. I don’t deserve to be with Jesus. I am truly sorry for my sins.” Jesus knew the heart of the man. He said to the man, “Your sins are forgiven.”

In that crowd of people were some men who did not like Jesus. These men thought a bad thing: they would not admit that they were sinners. They thought another bad thing in their hearts. They thought, “Who does Jesus think He is! Only God has power to forgive sins.” Jesus knew the bad thoughts of these men just the same as He knew the good thoughts of the man who could not walk. Jesus said to the men with the bad thoughts, “I know what you are thinking. I will show you that I am the Son of God. I can forgive sins. I will show you that I can.” Turning to the man who was lying on his bed in front of Jesus, Jesus said, “Take up your bed and walk.”

The man heard Jesus, and he trusted Jesus completely. He was able to get up; he stood on his legs! His legs were suddenly strong! He could stand! He could walk!

He bent down and rolled up his quilt bed. He carried his bed out of the house and went to his own home. He did not even have to be carried by his friends. His legs were strong! Something else had happened to the man—something more wonderful than being able to walk. He had found Jesus as his Friend and Saviour. His sins were forgiven!

Jesus has power to forgive our sins, too. He showed that power by helping that man to get up and walk.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: I John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

What do we have to do in order to have our sins forgiven? We have to tell Jesus about them. Will Jesus forgive our sins then? Yes, He will. He has promised to forgive us. Jesus never breaks a promise.