

Pointing Fingers and Throwing Stones



Theme: Forgiving others as Christ forgives us.

Object: Your own hand and enough stones to give one to each child.

Scripture: 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." John 8:7 (NIV)

One day Jesus got up early and went to the temple. As often happened, a group of people gathered around Jesus and he sat down and began to teach them. As he was teaching, some teachers of the law brought a woman who had been living a sinful life and made her stand before Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "this woman was caught in a terrible act of sin. The law of Moses says that she should be punished by stoning. What do you say?" The Bible tells us that they were trying to trap Jesus into saying something against their laws so that they could bring charges against him.

Jesus bent down and began writing with his finger in the dirt. The men kept questioning Jesus trying to get him to say something. Finally, Jesus stood and said to them, "Whoever is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her," then he bent down and continued writing in the dirt. The men who had accused the woman looked at one another and walked away.

Jesus stood and spoke to the woman. "Where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" he asked.

"No one," the woman answered.

"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Have you ever seen someone doing something wrong and you pointed an accusing finger at them? I think most of us would have to admit that we have. I had a pastor one time who was fond of saying, "Remember, when you point your finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at you." Try it, point your finger at someone and then look at your hand. Three fingers are pointing back at you!

That is the point of Jesus' teaching in our lesson today. Not one of us is perfect and we should remember that when we want to point fingers or throw stones at someone else. I have a small stone for each of you. Take it home and put it somewhere that you will see it when you think you might be tempted to point out someone else's faults.

Our Father, help us to have the forgiving attitude that Jesus taught us in our lesson today. It is in Jesus' name that we pray, amen.

HOPSCOTCH: The children will play hopscotch, throwing a brightly painted stone to the various squares containing words from today's lesson such as CHRIST, FORGIVENESS, JESUS, SIN, TEMPLE, STONES.

STONE TOSS: Have the children stand behind a LINE and take turns tossing a stone to another area that is marked with points, depending on what decorated area where the stone lands. This is played like a the game of horse shoes, in a way!

SAND SKETCHING: Provide the children with a shallow box or plastic container filled with sand. The children will write words from today's lesson in the sand which the teacher will give them. The teacher may also ask questions after today's Bible lesson and have the children write the answers in the sand.

STONE PAINTING: Each child can be given a smooth stone to paint a cross, or write FORGIVENESS, or another word or picture for today's lesson.

STONE MOUNTAIN: The children will be given construction paper and markers to draw a MOUNTAIN of stones. Encourage children to write words of forgiveness on each stone that has been drawn in a pile that forms the mountain! Write words from today's Bible verse at the foot of the "mountain".

FINGER PRINT FUN: Give each child an ink pad and a piece of construction paper in the shape of a circle to represent a STONE. Have the children print their own fingers on the paper and add arms and legs, hair and faces to their fingerprints and write words of forgiveness on their picture as a reminder of today's lesson. As an alternative activity, the teacher might have the children make their finger prints on the construction paper to represent stones and have them label each "stone" with a word from today's lesson or ways to forgive.

HAND TRACING: Have the children trace their hands on a piece of construction paper and write words from today's lesson on each finger of one of the traced hands. On the other hand, the pointer finger will be labeled POINTED AT YOU, and the other three fingers can be labeled POINTED AT ME.

BALLOON HAND: The teacher or the children will blow up a white rubber glove and tie it closed. It will look like a balloon hand for children to fold back three fingers and point the one finger as they tell parts of today's lesson.

CIRCLE TEACHING: Have the children form a big circle to discuss today's lesson. The teacher will ask the children to POINT to answers that have been written on pieces of paper and placed in the middle of the circle. Have the children POINT their fingers around the room at various items and encourage children to point to themselves for answers to other questions.