

Sermons4kids Last of All, He Sent His Son

Theme: We have God's forgiveness through His Son. Proper 22 (27) Year A

Object: A light bulb

Scripture: The Parable of the Tenants: Matthew 21:33-46

Electric lights are so common today that we never even give them a thought. If I were changing a light bulb and I dropped one and broke it, I wouldn't worry about it. I would just go and get another one. That hasn't always been true.

I heard a story about when Thomas Edison was working to invent this crazy contraption called a "light bulb." It took a whole team of men working for twenty-four hours to put just one light bulb together. The story is told that when Edison's team was finished with one light bulb, he gave it to a young boy to carry upstairs. Step by step he carefully carried it, afraid that he might drop this priceless piece of work. You can probably guess what happened; the poor boy dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the team of men twenty-four more hours to make another bulb. Finally, tired and ready for a break, Edison was ready to have his bulb carried upstairs. He gave it to the same young boy who dropped the first one. That's true forgiveness. Mr. Edison gave the boy another chance! [1]

God offers that same kind of forgiveness. He offers man a second chance — and a third!

Jesus told a story about a man who owned some land. He planted some grapes on the land and then rented it to some other men to take care of it for him while he was away.

When it came time to harvest the crop, the landowner sent some of his servants to collect his share of the harvest. The men who had leased the land beat the man's servants and even killed one of them. They refused to give the landowner what was due him.

A second time the landowner sent his servants to collect what was due to him. Once again the servants were treated the same way.

Finally, the landowner sent his own son to the tenants. He thought surely they would listen to his own son. But when they saw the son, they said, "This is the landowner's son, let's kill him and take his inheritance."

Jesus asked the men listening to his story, "What do you think the landowner will do to those men?"

"He will destroy those wicked men, and rent his land to someone else, who will give him his share of the fruit at harvest time" answered his listeners.

In this story that Jesus told, the landowner was God. God first sent men such as Noah, Moses, David, the prophet Isaiah, and others to tell the people of his love for them and to call them to turn from their wicked ways, but many would not listen. Finally, he sent His own Son, Jesus. You know what they did to him, don't you? That's right, they crucified him. God gave them a chance. He even gave them a second chance — and a third. But when they rejected His Son, that was their last chance. He is our last chance too — he is our only chance.

Dear Father, we thank you for sending us Jesus, your only Son. Help us to remember that he is our only chance to receive eternal life. Amen.

Activities

EGGSHELL CROSS: Crush up some egg shells and put them in colored dye water and then lay out to dry on a paper towel. Use several different colors for many shells. During the SS class, let children draw the frame of a large cross on their paper and begin gluing the various colors of eggshells to

their cross. Write on the cross where there are NO egg shells -- THANK YOU JESUS FOR DYING ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS.

FRAMED CROSS: Let the children draw and decorate a cross and the paper around the cross. Give the children a frame to put their art in, or have the children cut around their decorated CROSS and glue onto a larger sheet of paper as a "frame". Decorate the border as desired and hang by a string or yarn at the top.

1ST, 2ND, 3RD CHANCE GAME: Give the children something to do that might be too difficult to achieve on the first or 2nd try, such as dropping clothespins in a bottle behind the chair, play a dart game, or balance a ball or egg on their head. Tell the children that they may have 3 chances, instead of just one. Allow all of the children to have a chance, or have all the children trying to do something at the same time, whichever the teacher would like to do for that class.

"THANK YOU JESUS" CUP COVER: Give each child a Styrofoam cup. Give them a wide strip of colored paper to decorate with today's lesson ideas (Thank you God for sending your Son, or Thank you Jesus for forgiving me, Thank you Jesus for eternal life) and a cross and heart and the child's name. Let them tape the "cover" around the glass and take it home with a few treats inside to munch on, as desired.

POPCORN FORGIVENESS: Pop some popcorn and give children a small popcorn bag to place their popcorn in! As they begin to take ONE popped corn at a time, tell them that GOD forgives us over and over again! Each kernel can remind them of a time that GOD FORGIVES!

FORGIVENESS BANNER: This could be a class project together as they write in very LARGE letters FORGIVENESS and write their own names in a decorative way and each of them writing a THANK YOU note to Jesus for eternal life and for FORGIVING them.

DOOR HANGER: Give each child a FOAM door hanger and foam decorations and letters if available to make a door hanger. Write FORGIVENESS, or THANK YOU JESUS FOR FORGIVING ME, etc. Children may enjoy hanging these on other S.S. classroom doors or might want to take them home.

LIGHTS ON, LIGHTS OFF: Begin this activity with the lights off. The teacher will begin by asking a child a question about today's lesson. If the child knows the answer to the question, they will jump up and run to the light switch and flip it on, and answer the question. After they answer the question, they will turn the classroom light back off and return to their seat. The teacher will ask another questions so that all children have a turn. When the activity is finished, the children will draw a GIANT LIGHT BULB and write THOMAS EDISON FORGAVE THE YOUNG BOY AND JESUS FORGIVES EVEN MORE.

The Parable of the Tenants



Theme: The Parable of the Wicked Tenants. Proper 22 (27) Yr A

Object: Some popular story books

Scripture: The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he

sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Matthew 21:35-39 (NIV)

Do you like to hear stories? When I was a child, I loved it when my parents or my teacher read stories to me. Some of the best stories that I remember to this day are "The Three Little Pigs," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "The Ugly Duckling," and "Little Red Riding Hood." Oh, I know those stories are pretty old and you probably have your own list of favorites. What are some of your favorites?

Did you know that Jesus liked to tell stories? The stories that Jesus told were called parables and he used them to teach his followers about right and wrong. The way he did this was by comparing good behavior and bad or using examples of some of life's hard lessons that we all need to learn. For example, you have probably heard the story that Jesus told about the Good Samaritan. It is a story about how we should be kind to other people. Another story that Jesus told was the story about the Prodigal Son. It is a story about a father who loves his son even when he did wrong. The Bible is full of parables that Jesus told and we can learn a lot by listening to them.

Our Bible lesson today one of Jesus' parables. It is a story about a man who owned some land. He planted some grapes on the land and then rented it to some other farmers who were to work in the vineyard and take care of it for him. Part of the agreement he had with these farmers was that they would give him a share of the crops.

When it came time to harvest the grapes, the landowner sent his servants to collect his share of the harvest. The farmers who had leased the land beat the servants and even killed one of them. They refused to give the landowner what was owed to him.

A second time the landowner sent servants, more than the first time, but again the farmers treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his own son, thinking, "Surely they will respect my son."

But when they saw the son coming, they said, "This is the landowner's son, let's kill him and take his inheritance."

Jesus asked the men listening to his story, "What do you think the landowner will do to those men?"

"He will destroy those wicked men, and rent his land to someone else, who will give him his share of the fruit at harvest time" answered his listeners.

In this story that Jesus told, the landowner represents God. God first sent men such as Noah, Moses, David, the prophet Isaiah, and others to tell people of his love for them and to call them to turn away from their wicked ways, but many would not listen. Finally, he sent His own Son, Jesus. You know what they did to him, don't you? That's right, they crucified him. God gave them a chance. He even gave them a second chance—and a third. But when they rejected His Son, that was their last chance. He is our last chance too—our only chance to have eternal life in heaven with him.

Dear Father, we thank you for sending us Jesus, your only Son. Help us to remember that he is our only chance to receive eternal life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Activities

RIGHT AND WRONG GAME: Divide the children into groups and tell them to make up some rules for a game of their choice or one that the teacher may choose. When time is up, ALL the children will gather and start to play the game but with many RULES, the game with everyone's ideas will be a mess. This can lead into the story of Right and Wrong. If time allows, then the children can each take turns leading the other children in their own games and following the rules.

WHAT IS RIGHT RUN: The teacher can place pictures or words of various things representing RIGHT or WRONG. These can be taped all around the room and when the teacher says "RUN to find something RIGHT," they will find a slip of paper with something RIGHT on it and bring it back to tape to the RIGHT POSTER BOARD. If the teacher says to find something WRONG, they will do the same and RUN back to tape those to the WRONG POSTER BOARD. Gather children in a circle and discuss the two boards and then lead into today's Bible story.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT FRAMING: Provide supplies for the children to make a framed picture with brightly colored words to say, DO WHAT IS RIGHT. The children may choose to make purple finger prints all around the frame or picture to represent grapes and to remind them of today's lesson of the vineyard. Use a small rope stapled to the frame for hanging their art work.

LACED HEART: Let the children cut out a traced heart and the lower half of another heart to place together and hole punch so that yarn can be woven into the holes to form a heart POCKET. Children can write words from today's lesson on their laced heart, such as DO RIGHT and NOT WRONG, etc. Decorate and color their hearts. Write words of RIGHT THINGS to do, to place into their heart pocket. Encourage children to take those slips of paper out of their heart during the week to remind them of today's lesson.

HAND PRINT SIGN: Have the children trace and cut out two hands and glue them together with a craft stick or a dowel rod between the two hands. Before gluing the hands together, the children should write RIGHT on one hand and should write WRONG on the other side, so they can hold up one side or the other when the teacher gives examples to show RIGHT or WRONG.

VINEYARD ART: The children will draw squiggly lines all over a piece of construction paper to look like a vineyard. The children can then use a purple ink pad and place purple finger prints all over the vineyard and write words from today's lesson around their art work, to remind them of the vineyard story today.

FINGER PUPPETS: The children will either draw a character from our story on each finger with washable markers or they may be given finger length pieces of paper on which to draw a face and name. (Owner, worker, servant, son) When finished, the children will tape the paper strips to their fingers to talk about the things each person did.