



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for August 6, 2006.
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"Giving Forgiveness"

GOLDEN TEXT-"Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death"
(II Corinthians 7:10).

LESSON THEME: The Corinthian church was to forgive the man they had had to discipline for a shameful sin.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: II Corinthians 2:5-11 and 7:2-15

II COR. 2:5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which *was inflicted* of many.

7 So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with over-much sorrow.

8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm *your* love toward him.

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *for-give* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave / it* in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

7:2 Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

3 I speak not *this* to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with *you*.

4 Great is my boldness of speech to-ward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

5 For, when we were come into Mac-edo'ni-a, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears.

6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

7 And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in

8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it* were but for a season.

9 Now I rejoyce, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

12 Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which *I made* before Titus, is found a truth.

15 And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

NOTES ON THE LESSON

It was time for forgiveness. Someone in the Corinthian church had sinned grievously, and that person had been properly disciplined. Now Paul heard that the offender had repented. The problem had been dealt with, and only one step remained to be taken. The church needed to forgive, comfort, and love the offender.

Apparently some in the church were withholding forgiveness. Was it perhaps because the sin had indeed been so grievous? No reason is given. Whatever the reason, Paul said it was time to forgive and assure the repentant offender of the church's love in spite of the past.

Forgiving is not saying, "What you did was not wrong after all." Forgiving is saying, "What you did was wrong, but I will no longer hold it against you. I choose to consider the debt paid. I choose the way of no retribution. I choose to let God deal with the offense in His own way."

God forgives, and He demands forgiveness on our part. "Be ye kind one to another," Ephesians 4:32 says, "forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

We are forgiven. Let us forgive. Usually that is not easy to do, but the Lord says, "My grace is sufficient" (II Cor. 12:9). God gives us the ability to overcome our bitterness so that we can forgive.

Question: What can you do when someone treats you very badly, and hurts you deeply, so that you don't hold onto feelings of unforgiveness?

Answer: Ask God to help you release the hurt and unforgiveness, and to be able to love and treat the person who wronged you kindly.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand what forgiving means.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Forgiving means not requiring payment for a wrong done.
2. God forgives our sins-and He does not require payment from us-because Jesus has made payment for us.

Question: What can you do when a friend, family member, or teacher does something to you that you feel is wrong, and you want to do the right thing rather than get even?

Answer: Wait until you feel calmer and less hurt or angry, but do not allow too much time to pass. Then go to and talk to the person and let them know what happened (you were offended) when they did what they did, and ask them to forgive you even as you extend true forgiveness to them.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For **Beginning the Lesson**, have picture of two primary girls and a flash card reading "Forgive." The flash card will also be used in *Telling the Lesson* and *Telling How to Live*.

For **Telling the Lesson**, you will need the scroll from lesson 1, a drawing of simple crown, and a drawing of a stick figure.

For **Helping to Remember**, take the following items for each child: a 6-inch circle drawn on yellow construction paper, scissors, crayons, and a plastic fork.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

One day Jean's friend Patty said some very mean things to her. (Show picture of primary girls.) Later Patty' said she was sorry, but Jean kept thinking and thinking about those mean words. She did not even want to play with Patty anymore. Jean's mother finally said, "Jean you must forgive her." (Display "Forgive.") At last Jean did.

What does it mean to forgive some one? Let us talk about that.

TELLING THE LESSON

Do you remember Paul? He was letter writer. (Hold up scroll.) God put some of his letters in the Bible. One day Paul had to write a very hard, very unhappy letter. It was to his church friends in the town of Corinth.

You see, one of the believers had done a very wrong thing. Paul told the church they had to do something about such bad behavior. When they finally did, the man, whoever he was, was sorry. He made things right, and that was good.

Some of God's people did not feel like forgiving the man, however. Paul therefore wrote another letter. (Hold up scroll.) It was time to forgive, he told them. It is as if he said, "Do not go on and on punishing this man and making him unhappy. He has made things right. The trouble is over; now forgiving is the right thing to do."

What is forgiving?

Jesus once told a story about a king who forgave (Matt. 18:23-27). (Show crown.) Some men had borrowed money from this king to use for a while. When the time came for them to bring the money back, he called them all in. He found out that one man did not have any money to bring. (Show stick figure.)

Did the man lose the money? Did he spend it? Jesus' story does not say, but the money was gone. The man had used the king's money and now could not give it back. That was not good. The king was not happy. He said, "Sell this man and sell his family so that I can have my money!" That is what they did in those days. The man said,

"Oh, please, just give me some time. I will pay it all."

The king looked at him. He knew the man could never pay it all, and he felt sorry for him. At last he said, "All right, then. You do not have to pay anything." We would say he forgave the man all the money he owed.

Boys and girls, that is what it is to for-give: not holding against a person the wrong he has done. (Show "Forgive.")

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

The Bible says to be kind to one another, "forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32). For example, we are not to make a mean boy pay for his meanness to us by staying angry at him or by getting even in some other way.

Keep remembering that when you believed in Jesus, God forgave you for the wrong things you did. Jesus paid for your wrongdoing so that you do not need to pay.

Have you asked God to forgive you? (Show "Forgive.") If not, come and tell me after class. We can look together at what the Bible says about getting your sins forgiven.

Question: What are some things that a person can do to you that you might have great difficulty forgiving unless God helps you to forgive?

Answer: A person damaging or stealing things you value; tell lies about you; take credit for your good work; eat the last piece of your favorite candy or dessert; say ugly things to you or about you; treat you like you are dumb or unimportant or not as good as they are.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

After cutting out his circle, each child should make cuts around the edge to create a "flower." Have him print "Forgive" on his flower and insert it into the tines of a plastic fork.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 7:10).

When God makes people unhappy about their sins, that is good. Then they are glad to hear that Jesus died for them and rose again. Then they can believe that good news and have their sins forgiven.

Question: How can you tell when a person is really sorry about hurting or mistreating you?

Answer: They change and improve the way they treat you, with no strings attached; they say they are sorry for the specific thing they did wrong; if possible, they return or pay for things they have wrongfully taken; they demonstrate a sincere effort not to repeat the offense again.

Today's Mustard Seed Lesson Activity:

'Twister'

Based on II CORINTHIANS 2:5-11 and 7:2-15

Instructions:

- Untwist the letters below to find words about forgiveness.
- Once you find each of the following seven words about forgiveness - make up and write your own short sentence about forgiveness, using that word.
- For a bigger challenge put all of these words together in a sentence or short phrase about forgiveness.

1. pretenance: _____

2. mortcof: _____

3. trigh: _____

4. dogly: _____

5. ebodenice: _____

6. crinlearg: _____

7. sloonaction: _____

Answers: comfort, right, godly, consolation, repentance, clearing, obedience.

Remember that our unforgiveness twists our relationships with others. Regardless of what wrong others may do to us, God tells us to forgive them because that is the way God is: forgiving. He wants us to be like Him and forgive others even when they don't deserve it. That is how God forgives us.

Let this activity remind you of the importance of always doing your part to be a peacemaker and untwist your relationships by giving forgiveness. Forgiveness is a gift from God that you can share with others freely.

Finally: Think about unforgiveness as being like holding onto a tornado: dangerous and destructive to you and those near you.

Lesson Summary and Activity by Barbara Palmer

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