

THEME: JESUS AND ME

Lesson 1: Jesus knows my name. (Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10) John 10:14

Lesson 2: Jesus knows what I have done. (Woman at the well, John 4:1-30) Psalm 69:5

Lesson 3: Jesus loves me. (Jesus with the children, Matthew 19:13-15) Romans 5:8

Lesson 4: Jesus wants to forgive me. (Jesus on the cross, Luke 23:32-47) Luke 23:34

Lesson 5: Jesus wants to help me forgive. (Joseph forgives his brothers, Genesis 37:12-28, 45:1-5, 47:1-6) Ephesians 4:32

Lesson 6: Jesus wants to heal my hurts & use me to heal others. (Good Samaritan, Luke 10:29-37) Psalm 147:3

Lesson 7: Jesus wants me to be part of His forever family. (Evangelical) (2 Cor. 6:18)

ENGLISH CONVERSATION FOR EVERY DAY

Good morning. (Response: Good morning.)

Good afternoon. (Response: Good afternoon.)

Today is (Monday, etc.)

Are you happy to be here today? (Yes, we are happy.)

SONG FOR EVERY DAY (Say it and then sing it.)

This is the day

This is the day

That the Lord has made

That the Lord has made

We will rejoice

We will rejoice

And be glad in it

And be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made

We will rejoice and be glad in it

This is the day

This is the day

That the Lord has made.

That the Lord has made.

LESSON ONE –JESUS KNOWS MY NAME

Lesson: Jesus knows my name. (Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10) John 10:14

Preparation for Teaching:

Paper & crayolas for drawing, pictures with words printed out for vocabulary cards. Someone who knows the Zacchaeus song (or listen to it on CD & learn it). Bible to open while teaching, marked at the main passage, Luke 19). Visualized memory verse in appropriate language as well as English, with picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Practice the student participation portions, especially the rhythmic and singing parts.

Lesson Aim:

At the conclusion of this lesson, each child should realize and feel God’s personal interest in him by realizing that Jesus knows his name. They should know that Jesus will show them what to do to make right anything they have done wrong.

Songs:

Jesus loves me, He knows my name (repeat several times)
That’s why I love Him so!

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
And a wee little man was he
He climbed up in the Sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see
And as the Lord came walking by
He looked up in the tree
And He said, Zacchaeus, “You come down!”
For I’m going to your house today.

Bible Memory Verse: John 10:14

“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep, and My sheep know Me” John 10:14 NIV

(Explain: shepherd, sheep)

Learn the verse by repeating it rhythmically & dancing to it.

Beginning the Lesson:

Do you like to hear your name? Maybe your mom or your aunt or grandma calls your name when it is time to eat. “Patrick! John! Come! It’s time to eat!” It’s good to hear your name in that way. Most

people like their names because our names show who we are. When we hear our name called, we know someone is talking to us.

Transition to the Lesson:

In today's Bible story, we find that Jesus knew someone's name. The strange thing is, Jesus had never met this person. This person's name was Zacchaeus, and we meet him in the Bible story told in the book of Luke, chapter 19. (Teacher, open your Bible & hold it in your hand while teaching the Bible story. Put your notes in your Bible.)

Bible Story:

- Jesus was walking around as He always did, teaching the people good things, healing the sick, casting out demons, and sometimes even raising the dead.
(Students: Making "walking" motions with hands.)
- He came into a town named Jericho.
- He was walking through the town on His way to another place.
(Students: Point through, then to another place.)
- In the town of Jericho lived a lonely man named Zacchaeus. Jesus had never met him.
(Students: Shake heads & say sadly, "Lonely Zaccheus!")
- Zacchaeus was a very rich man. He was rich because he was the leader of those who collected taxes from the people.
(Students: Shake heads & say sadly, "Lonely rich man!")
- Tax collectors always cheated the people (make a nasty face) by trying to get more than was right. That's how Zacchaeus became so rich. He stole money from people by cheating them. He was a thief!
(Students: Shake heads & say sadly, "Lonely rich cheater thief!")
- No one liked the tax collectors because of the way they cheated. Zacchaeus was rich, but he did not have many friends at all. No one liked him. He must have been very lonely.
(Students: Shake heads & say sadly, "Lonely Zacchaeus!")
- Zacchaeus had heard about the wonderful things Jesus did. When he heard that Jesus was walking through his town, he wanted to see him.
(Students: Jump & say excitedly, "I want to see Jesus! I want to see Jesus!")
- The problem was that there was a big crowd of people following Jesus, and Zacchaeus was very short. Everyone was in his way. He could only see their elbows! (Teacher, hold up your elbow.)

There was no way that short Zacchaeus could ever see Jesus in this crowd!

(Students: Pretend you are pushing your way through a crowd. Say, "I can't see Jesus! I can't see Jesus!")

- But Zacchaeus REALLY wanted to see Jesus. He felt he HAD to see Jesus. So he ran ahead of the crowd on the road when Jesus would be passing.
(Students: Run in place. Say, "I HAVE to see Jesus! I HAVE to see Jesus!")
- He climbed up into a sycamore tree so that he could have a good look at Jesus.
(Students: Make motions like they are climbing a tree.)
- It would be SO WONDERFUL just to see Jesus!
- Zacchaeus probably felt that Jesus would never have any interest in him—a cheater, a tax collector, a man no one liked, a man who couldn't even see Jesus without climbing a tree.
(Students: Hang heads in shame, silent.)
- Still, it would be good just to SEE Jesus! Zacchaeus knew there was something very special about Jesus!
(Students: Chant rhythmically, while dancing: "Something special about Jesus! Something special about Jesus!")
- Zacchaeus could see Jesus coming down the road, a huge crowd all around him. He came closer and closer. Soon, Jesus would pass by and be gone.
(Students: Holding arm out extended, bring it closer & closer, while saying as a group, "Closer. Closer. Closer.")
- But when Jesus came to the place under the tree where Zacchaeus was watching, he STOPPED.
(Students: Clap hands once, at the same time saying, "Stopped.")
- Do you think Zacchaeus was afraid? Do you think he was afraid Jesus would see him and scold him for being up in the tree? Maybe he was afraid Jesus would tell everyone about all the bad things he had done. Then he would feel so ashamed.
- Jesus looked up. (Teacher, look up.) He saw Zacchaeus in the tree.
- Jesus called up to him, "Zacchaeus! Hurry and come down! Today I am going to your house."
- What? Had Zacchaeus heard right? Jesus called him—BY NAME! But—how did Jesus know his name? Jesus had never met him!
- "Jesus knows my name! Jesus knows me!" Zacchaeus might have thought.
(Students: "Jesus knows my name! Jesus knows ME!")

- Probably hardly anyone had called Zacchaeus by name before. Probably most people just called him the (Teacher say it in a disgusted tone of voice) : “tax collector.” Probably they said even that with a feeling of disgust.
(Students: “Lonely Zacchaeus. Lonely man.”)
- But Jesus! Jesus knew his name! Now Zacchaeus knew Jesus was a very special friend.
- Zacchaeus hurried down the tree. Soon he was standing in front of Jesus.
(Students: Make motions like they are climbing down the tree in a hurry, then standing in front of Jesus.)
- Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully. Maybe he gave Jesus a big hug, and Jesus hugged him back.
- The people following Jesus didn’t understand why Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus, a man who had done so many hurtful things. (Teacher, shake your head as if you do not approve.)
- Jesus was going to Zacchaeus’ house? How could Jesus sit down with a man who was such a sinner?
- Those people didn’t understand that we are ALL sinners. We have all done bad things that made God unhappy. We have SINNED against God.
(Students: Pointing around, say: “We are all sinners. We are all sinners.”)
- Those people didn’t understand that Jesus loves even those who have done terrible things. He came to show His love to sinners just like Zacchaeus, just like you and me.
(Students: Hug self & say, “He came to show His love to us.”)
- Jesus did go to Zacchaeus’ home. They ate a meal together. Jesus talked to Zacchaeus as a friend.
- When Zacchaeus saw that Jesus knew him and yet loved him, his heart was changed. He now BELIEVED in Jesus. He wanted to do something to show that his heart had changed.
(Students: Say rhythmically: “He believed in Jesus, and his heart was changed.”)
- So Zacchaeus thought about all his riches. He had got those riches by cheating people, even by cheating poor people. So he decided to give back what he had stolen. He would give away half of everything he had. He would give it to poor people. (Teacher, lay out ten coins on the table. Divide it into two groups, and give half to some of the poor children in the class.)
- Zacchaeus could remember cheating some people. He had told lies to cheat them. But now Zacchaeus’ heart was changed. He said he was going to give THOSE people back FOUR TIMES what he took. If he stole one shilling, he would give 4 shillings back. Wow! His heart had truly changed since he met Jesus! (Teacher take four of the remaining coins. Go to a child who has not yet received a coin. Say, “I’m so sorry I cheated you. I stole 1 shilling from you. Now I’ve

met Jesus, so I don't want to cheat or steal any more. Here. I am giving you back 4 shillings in place of the one I stole." Give four coins to the child.)

- Jesus said "Today is salvation come to this house." Zacchaeus heart had changed. He now believed in Jesus. He was saved! He was forgiven! He was a part of God's family!
(Students: Clap and sing, "Salvation has come to this house! Zacchaeus believes in Jesus! O yea!")
- And it all started because Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name!
(Students: "Jesus knew his name. Jesus knew his name.)
- And better yet, Jesus knows MY name, too!
(Students: Pointing to self: "Jesus knows my name. Jesus knows my name.")

Invitation for the Unsaved Child:

- Jesus knows your name, too. There are many children here, and we may not know your name yet, but Jesus knows it.
- Jesus knows all about you. He knows what you have done. He knows every sin.
- Jesus knows all you have done. He knows your heart. He has heard every word you have said. Yet He still loves you. He still wants to come to your house. He still wants to be your friend.
- Maybe you have many other friends. Maybe you have none at all. Jesus wants to be your friend.
- Maybe you have done some terrible things and you think you will never feel good again about yourself. When Zacchaeus believed in Jesus, Jesus forgave him for all the terrible things he had done.
- Will you say yes to Jesus right now? He is calling your name. Will you believe in Him?
- If you have not yet believed in Jesus, but today you want to say yes to Him, right now would you.....

Life Application for the Unsaved Child:

- When Zacchaeus believed in Jesus, Jesus showed him what he could do to make it right again. When Jesus showed him, Zacchaeus was happy to do it. What a terrible burden was lifted from him, when he gave back what he had stolen!
- When you believe in Jesus, He will forgive you. He will give you a new, clean heart. He will show you what to do to make right anything you have done.
- Would you ask Him right now? Just ask Him to put into your mind what He wants you to do to show that you are really sorry.

(We will distribute paper and ask the children to draw pictures of what Jesus is showing them they should do. If the child can write, he should write his name on his paper first. As the children draw, be alert to any children whose drawings show they may need special attention in prayer and counseling.)

Vocabulary:

Tree

Climb, climbed

Walk, walking

Jesus

Cheat

Lie

Money

Home

Give back

My name

(With actions) Jesus knows my name.

LESSON TWO – JESUS KNOWS WHAT I HAVE DONE

Lesson: Jesus knows what I have done. (Woman at the well, John 4:1-30) Psalm 69:5

Preparation for Teaching:

Bible for teaching, marked at John 4. Find out name of town or village where you are teaching and the name of the district it is in. . Practice the student participation portions, especially the rhythmic and singing parts. Learn or practice the “Jesus gave her water” song. It is available on the recording that goes with this lesson.

Lesson Aim:

At the conclusion of this lesson, the children should know that Jesus knows everything they have ever done, and He wants to forgive them for their sins. They should come to Him for forgiveness.

Beginning the Lesson:

- There was a woman in the Bible who had a deep dark secret.
- She had done some shameful things. She did not feel good about it. She knew she had done wrong.
- This woman did not want anyone to know about her terrible secret.
- Would you like to hear her story?

Teaching the Bible Lesson:

(Teacher open your Bible & place your notes into it. Refer to your open Bible often throughout the lesson.)

- Jesus was walking one day. He needed to go through Samaria.
(Students: Make “walking” motions with their hands.)
- Jesus was a Jew and most Jews did not like the people of Samaria. Most Jews would walk a long way around Samaria just so they wouldn’t have to say hello to any Samaritans.
(Students: Put one finger down in front of them. In a nasty voice, say: “That’s Samaria”. Use the other arm to draw a big circle, going around Samaria. In a nasty voice, say: “I don’t even SPEAK to those Samaritans.”)

- That is what other people did. But NOT JESUS. He HAD to go through Samaria. He knew there was someone there He needed to meet.
- Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar. Samaria was a district like (teacher, name the district you are in), and Sychar was a town like (teacher name the town or village you are in).
- Just outside the town of Sychar was a very old well where the people came to get water.
- Jesus was very tired since he had been walking a long time, for six hours. If he started in the early morning, that would have been about noon.
(Students: Say, "Very tired, very tired.")
- He sat down on the edge of the well (Teacher, sit down on a table or chair. If the children cannot see you well, sit down & then get up again.) His disciples went on into town to buy some food, and Jesus stayed at the well.
(Students: Say or sing, "Jesus was resting at the well.")
- This was not the time of day when most people came to get water. But look! A woman was coming. A Samaritan woman. She was coming to get water.
(Students: Ask one another, "Why is someone coming now?")
- Jesus asked the woman to give him a drink.
- The woman was surprised. She could see that Jesus was a Jew. He could see that she was a Samaritan. "How can you ask me for a drink?" She asked. "Usually your people don't EVEN TALK to my people."
(Students, with shocked voice & mannerisms: "He spoke to me! He spoke to me!")
- Jesus wanted to help this woman. So he said, "If you knew the gift of God, if you knew who was talking to you, you would have asked him for a drink, and He would have given you LIVING WATER."
(Students: "If I knew who He was? Well, who IS He?")
- She didn't understand. "Sir," she said, "you don't even have anything to get water with, and the well is very deep. Where would you get that living water from?"
- "This well was built by our ancestor Jacob," she said. "Are you greater than him?"
(Students: "Jesus, are you greater, greater than our father Jacob?")
- Jesus looked at the woman. "Whoever drinks this water will just get thirsty again," He said. "But whoever drinks of the water I give him will never get thirsty again. That water will be in him a well of water, springing up to everlasting life."

- What? Never get thirsty again? It sounded too good to be true, but it sounded good. It sounded VERY good. She really was thirsty, not just in her mouth, not just in her throat, but way down deep inside.
(Students, excitedly: “Never get thirsty again? Oh, that sounds SOO Good!”)
- “Sir,” she said, “GIVE me this water! I don’t want to get thirsty again. I don’t want to ever have to come back to this well again.”
(Students, excitedly: “Give me this water! Give me this water!”)
- She felt the need in her life. Now, Jesus was ready to let her know that He knew her deep, dark secret.
- “Go, call your husband and come back,” He said.
- Uh, oh! Her secret was out. The woman hung her head in shame. There was no use lying to Jesus. “I have no husband,” she said.
(Students: Jesus knew all about her. Jesus knew all about her.)
- Jesus said, “You’re right about that. You have no husband.” How did he know? Did He also know she was living with a man as if he were her husband? Did He know she was living in adultery, in sin, with him? How could He? Jesus didn’t know her—did He?
(Students: “Her deep, dark secret: She was living in sin.”)
- “You have had FIVE husbands,” Jesus said. (Teacher hold up one hand showing five fingers.) The woman’s head must have sunk low. He knew all about her disgraceful affairs. She had lived with one man after another. She had not been faithful in marriage.
(Students: 1,2,3,4,5 husbands. 1,2,3,4,5 husbands.)
- Everyone knew she was a disgrace. That’s why she had come out to the well at a time when she didn’t think she would meet anyone.
(Students: Hand heads in disgrace. Say sadly: “Everyone knew her sin. Jesus knew her sin.”)
- She couldn’t bear the way people looked at her—like she was dirty and disgusting.
(Students, hanging heads: Dirty. Ashamed. Dirty. Ashamed.)
- And Jesus knew all about it. How did He know what she had done?
(Students, turn to each other & ask, “How did Jesus know? How did Jesus know?”)
- “And the man you are living with now is not your husband,” Jesus said. “You told the truth about that.”
(Students, rhythmically: “Jesus knew all about her sin. Jesus knew all about her sin.”)

- Jesus knew she was living in sin right now? She felt so ashamed. (Teacher, hang head.) She wished she could keep on hiding what she had done, but Jesus knew all about it.
(Students, rhythmically: “Jesus knew all about her sin. Jesus knew all about her sin.”)
- Still, He was not talking to her as if she was disgusting. He was talking to her with a tone of love—as if He really cared about her.
(Students, rhythmically: “Jesus still cared about her. Jesus still cared about her.”)
- The woman knew Jesus must be someone very special. “Sir,” she said, “I think you must be a prophet.” OK—He knew all about her. Now, change the subject. Don’t let Him keep talking about you and all the bad things you have done.
(Students, rhythmically: “Change the subject. Forget about my sin. Change the subject. Forget about my sin.”)
- Uummm, what could she ask Him? Maybe a religious question.
(Students turn to each other & ask, “What could she ask Him? What could she ask Him?”)
- “Our fathers worshipped on this mountain,” she said. “But the Jews say we should worship in Jerusalem. Where do you say we should worship?” There! That ought to get Him talking about something else!
- Jesus said, “Woman, believe me, the hours is coming and is even now, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Those are the kind of worshipers God wants to worship Him.
(Students sing to one another: “Don’t you worry about the place. Just worship the Father in spirit and in truth.”)
- “God is a Spirit, “ Jesus said. “Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Oh, no! He had her again. She knew she did not worship God in truth the way Jesus said. They were back to her sin again! But maybe she could ask another religious question & get Jesus off that subject.
- “I know that someday the Savior is going to come,” the woman said. When He comes, He will tell us all things.” She probably thought that the coming of the Savior was a long ways away. It would be safe to talk about that.
(Students, singing: “The Savior is going to come. The Savior is going to come.”)
- Yes! Yes! Yes! You are on the right road, lady. Keep on thinking about the Savior who is coming.
- Jesus looked at her and said, “I that am speaking to you AM HE. I AM the Savior who is coming.”
(Students: “Jesus is the Savior. The Savior who was coming.” Repeat.)

- At that point, Jesus' disciples came back with their lunches. They were amazed to see Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman, but they didn't dare ask Him about it.
- Then the woman got really excited. She had been talking to the Savior—the one everyone had been waiting for, for SOOO many years! She had been talking to the One who could take away sins! She was a terrible sinner, and here she was, talking to the very One who could wash all those sins away!
(Students sing: "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!")
- The woman got so excited, she left her waterpot there and ran into the city.
- She said to everyone, "Come, see a man who told me everything I have ever done. Is this not the Savior we have been waiting for?"
(Students, singing: " She told everyone about Jesus, the Savior. Whoo! Whoo!")
- So, many in the town of Sychar believed on Jesus because the woman said, "He told me everything I had ever done."
(Students: She believed, and they did, too. Whoo!)

Invitation for the Unsaved Child

- Jesus knows everything you have done, too. He knows the good things you have done, and He knows the things you are ashamed of. He knows the things you would like to forget, the things you would like to keep a secret.
- Jesus knew about the woman's sins, but did He condemn her?
- No, he offered her living water so she would never thirst again. He showed her that He was the Savior, the One who could forgive her.
- Jesus knows what you have done, too. He knows all your sin. He does not condemn you. He offers you living water. He offers you Himself.
- Jesus wants to be your Savior. He wants to forgive your sins. He wants to wash away all your guilt and shame. He wants to give you a new heart and a new life.
- If you have not yet received Jesus as your Savior, you can do so today? Would you like to go to our prayer tent today? Are you ready to say yes to Jesus today?

Life Application for the Saved Child

If you have received Jesus, but you still remember those terrible things you did, just tell Jesus about those things. He has already forgiven you. Ask Him to wash those memories out of your mind. We are bringing you today a hug from Jesus. If you want Him to hug you and to wash those memories away, come up and get a hug right now.

(Allow a time for hugs and prayers by team members. As you hug them, assure them of God's love. Lead the children in a prayer of salvation acknowledging their sin and asking for God's forgiveness and cleansing.)

Now that Jesus has forgiven you, He wants you to forgive others. Do you know someone who has hurt you? Will you forgive them in Jesus' name? (Allow a time of prayer for forgiving others.)

Pass out paper and crayons and encourage the children to draw Jesus giving them a hug and them forgiving someone else. Seek guidance from the Spirit as you ask some of the children to tell you about their drawings. Be sensitive to those who may need special prayer.

Bible Memory Verse:

Psalm 69:5 "Oh God, You know my foolishness, and my sins are not hidden from You".

- Vocabulary

Jesus

Woman

Shame

Well

Water

Drink

Thirsty

Sins

Forgive

Clean

(With actions) Jesus knows what I have done.
Jesus wants to forgive me.

Song:

Jesus gave her water

That was not in the well (2x)

She went away singing

And came back bringing

Others to the water

That was not in the well.

Jesus knew t he secrets

The secrets of her heart

Jesus knew her sin and shame

He knew every part

Jesus knew and He forgave her

He cleansed her heart and made her

Clean and forgiven

Of all her sin and shame.

LESSON THREE – JESUS LOVES ME.

Jesus loves me. (Jesus with the children, Matthew 19:13-15) Romans 5:8

Lesson Aim:

At the conclusion of this lesson, each child shall be assured that Jesus loves him and wants to welcome him into His family. They will see Jesus as their Friend, and want to be His friend, too.

Beginning the Lesson:

- Sammy wanted to get his uncle's attention.
- His uncle was one of the elders of the village.

- He was a very important man. Many people came to him for help.
- Sammy tried to get his attention. “Uncle!” he called.
- “Go away, Sammy!” his uncle said. “I’m busy now.”
- Later Sammy tried to get his attention again. He tugged at his uncle’s shirt.
- “Can’t you see I’m busy?” his uncle said. “Go and play.”
- Sammy never did get to talk to his uncle. His uncle was always too busy to talk to a child.

Teaching the Bible Lesson:

- There is one very big man who was NEVER too busy for children. Jesus was never too busy.
- One day Jesus was teaching the people. Many people were following Him. He was a very important teacher. He had many important things to say.
- While He was teaching, some parents brought their little children to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to put His hands on them and bless them and pray for them.
- Jesus’ disciples did not think that was a good idea. They probably thought Jesus was too big and too important to be bothered with children.
- So the disciples began to scold the parents. Maybe they said something like this: “Go away! Take those kids out of here! How dare you waste Jesus’ time with little children? Don’t you understand what an important man Jesus is?”
- Jesus saw what was happening. He saw that the disciples were trying to send the children away. Jesus did not agree with what they were doing.
- No, He said. “Let the little children come to Me. Don’t send them away. The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
- You see, children received Jesus gladly. They believed in Him gladly. And that’s exactly how anyone gets into God’s family, God’s Kingdom—by gladly receiving Jesus.
- So Jesus put His hands lovingly on the children. He prayed for them. He blessed them.
- He showed that He loved them so much.
- Jesus loves YOU, too. Even if no one else thinks you are important, Jesus does. He loves you and He wants to welcome you to become His child.

Bible verse to memorize:

“God shows His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8

(Try substituting you name)

Invitation to the Unsaved Student:

- God loves you. Jesus loves you. You are important to Him. He died to pay the punishment for all your sins. If you have not said Yes to Jesus yet, would you like to do so today?

Song:

Jesus loves me
This I know
For the Bible tells me so
All the children to Him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. (3x)
The Bible tells me so!

Vocabulary:

Parents

Loves

Bring, bringing

Touch

Hands

Pray

Bless

Child, Children

Scold

Send them away

Come to me

Jesus loves the children.

Jesus loves me.

Application for the saved child:

When you know that Jesus loves you, you can show His love to others. You can show His love by being kind, by speaking kind, encouraging words, by sharing what you have, and by helping others.

Say with motions:

God shows love to me. I show love to others. Everyone is loved!

Lesson 4: Jesus wants to forgive me. (Jesus on the cross, Luke 23:32-47) Luke 23:34

Lesson Aim:

At the conclusion of this lesson, each child will know that Jesus wants to forgive him. When he receives God's forgiveness, he will then be able to forgive others who have hurt him.

Beginning the Lesson:

- Tommy was very sad in his heart and very angry. He was very sad because his brother had been killed by soldiers. Tommy missed his brother so much! He missed playing with him. He missed hearing him laugh.
- Tommy was angry in his heart, too. He was angry because he knew who killed his brother and he was right here in the camp. He felt so angry every time he saw that person.
- Tommy wanted to get rid of that anger out of his heart. It made him almost sick sometimes. But how could he? How could he ever forgive that person? It hurt so much.

Telling the Lesson:

- Our Bible story today tells about someone who also got hurt very badly. He didn't deserve to get hurt. He had never done anything wrong. He had always done only good. His name was Jesus.
- But some people were jealous of Jesus because many people followed Him and listened to what He said. Those wicked people took Jesus and nailed Him up on a cross to kill Him.

- Two thieves were also put up on crosses—one on each side of Jesus. Now they deserved to die. They had broken the law. They had hurt people. They had done wrong.
- And there was Jesus in the middle of them—holy, precious, sinless Jesus. Jesus who always did good. Jesus, who told such wonderful stories. Jesus, who healed the sick. Jesus, who cast out demons. Jesus, who raised the dead. Jesus was hanging on the cross to die.
- It hurt to hang on the cross. They pounded nails in Jesus' hands. They pounded nails in his feet. They jammed a crown of thorns down on His head. Jesus was hurting so badly.
- Then Jesus looked up to heaven and began to pray. What was He praying?
- Was He praying, "Father, strike them all dead for what they have done to me!" No, no, no.
- Was He praying, "Father, curse these awful people"? No, no, no.
- Was He saying, "Father, don't You ever forgive them for what they have done to me?" No, no, no.
- Jesus was praying. And what was He saying? He was praying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
- Can you imagine that? While they were hurting Jesus so much, He was praying that God would forgive them!
- While Jesus was asking God to forgive them, some of them were gambling to see who would get His clothing. They had stripped all His clothing off Him when they put Him on the cross. He was nearly naked.
- While Jesus was asking God to forgive them, some of them were making fun of Him. "Oh, he saved others. Let Him save himself, since he's supposed to be the chosen one of God."
- Oh, Jesus could have saved Himself. But then He would not have been able to save us. He would not have been able to take away our sins and be our Savior. He stayed on the cross for us, because WE NEEDED a Savior.
- While Jesus was asking God to forgive them, the soldiers were laughing at Jesus, too. They climbed up and tried to give Him a drink. But it was not water. It was vinegar! Ugh!
- They were laughing and saying, "If you're the King of the Jews, save yourself!"
- One of the thieves on the other crosses laughed at Jesus, too. "If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!" he said.
- It hurts to have people laugh at you. No one likes that.

- But the other thief said, “Jesus, Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He was not laughing. He knew Jesus had not done anything wrong. He believed Jesus was who He said He was.
- Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- It was about noontime, and suddenly everything became very dark, like the middle of the night.
- Jesus had been beaten. People had pulled his beard. They had spit on him. They had pounded nails into Him. They had laughed at Him.
- But Jesus had forgiven them. He had prayed that His Father God would forgive them, too.
- About three o’clock, Jesus prayed again. “Father, into your hands I give my spirit”, He said. And He died.
- God’s precious, holy, perfect Son died.
- One of the soldiers who had been watching was amazed. “Truly, this was a righteous man,” he said. “Truly He was t he Son of God.”

LIFE APPLICATION FOR THE SAVED STUDENT:

Many people here in Uganda have been hurt because of the war and all the terrible things that happened. But no one was ever hurt more than Jesus. Jesus did not carry anger in His heart towards those who hurt Him. Jesus forgave them, and He died at peace. Of course, He did not stay dead. At three days He arose from the dead, just as He promised.

Who do you need to forgive? Will you ask God to help you forgive them?

When you hold on to anger, it is like carrying a bottle of poison around and drinking a little every day. It makes you sick. It does not make your life happy and peaceful.

When you forgive, it is like pouring out the bottle of poison. It cannot hurt you any more. It cannot make your life miserable.

We all need to forgive those who have hurt us, and we all need to be forgiven by others. We, too, have done things that hurt others.

Let the children draw pictures of people they want to forgive.

BIBLE VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

INVITATION FOR THE UNSAVED STUDENT:

We all need forgiveness. We have done things that hurt others, but most of all, we have done things that hurt God. When we say “Yes” to Jesus, He forgives us for all we have done wrong. He washes away all our sin. He gives us clean, new hearts. Have you said “Yes” to Jesus? If you are not sure, why not say “Yes” to Him today?

SONG:

Gone, gone, gone, gone
 Yes, my sins are gone
 Now my soul is free
 And in my heart's a song
 Buried in the deepest sea
 Yes, that's good enough for me.
 I shall live eternally
 Praise God my sins are
 G-O-N-E Gone!

Forgiven, I'm forgiven
 For He washed my sins away
 Forgiven, I'm forgiven
 That's why I am happy today.

I'll forgive you, I'll forgive you
 For Jesus forgave me, too
 I'll forgive you. I'll forgive you.
 And then we will start anew!

Vocabulary:

Forgive, forgave

Cross

Nails

Hurt

No

Laugh

Die, died

Pray

Thief, thieves

Gone

Sins

Lesson 5: Jesus wants to help me forgive. (Joseph forgives his brothers, Genesis 37:12-28, 45:1-5, 47:1-6) Ephesians 4:32

Lesson Aim:

At the conclusion of this lesson, the children will understand that Jesus can help them forgive, even when it is very hard to do. Therefore they will begin the process of forgiving others who hurt them.

Beginning the Lesson:

- Simon felt that he hated his uncle. His uncle said terrible things to him. "My house is too crowded because of you. "
- "I don't get enough to eat because I always have to leave some for you. Your stomach is too big."
- "I don't have money to pay for your schooling. You'll never amount to anything anyway."
- Those words hurt so much. When his uncle talked like that, Simon felt like he wanted to scream.
- It wasn't his fault his parents died. It wasn't his fault his uncle's house was so small.
- Yes, his uncle took him in, it was true. Simon knew he should be thankful for that, but somehow he didn't feel his uncle really wanted him.
- Simon grew to hate his uncle. He began thinking of hateful ways to answer his uncle. He began thinking of ways to hurt him.
- It would serve him right, since his uncle had hurt him so much.
- What would Jesus want Simon to do? How would he want Simon to treat his uncle?
- Was anyone in the Bible ever treated so unfairly by his own family?

Teaching the Lesson:

- There was a man named Joseph in the Bible. This was not Joseph the man who took care of Jesus while He was growing up. This Joseph lived long before.
- We find his story in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.
- Joseph lived with his father Jacob. It was a big family. Joseph had ten older brothers and one younger brother. (Have the children hold up ten fingers for the older brothers, then one for Joseph's younger brother, and one for Joseph. Ten plus two. There were 12 brothers in all.
- Father Jacob liked Joseph a lot. The older brothers could see that Joseph was their father's favorite, so they were jealous of him. They hated Joseph. He was their own brother, but they could not say one kind word to him. They were always picking fights with him.
- One day Father Jacob sent the ten older brothers out to feed his sheep. The two youngest brothers stayed behind.
- After awhile, Father Jacob decided to send Joseph out to make sure his brothers were OK.
- When the brothers saw Joseph coming, while he was still a long ways off, his brothers began to plan how they could kill him.
- How terrible! They were planning to kill their own brother! No one was making them do this. Their hearts were so filled with jealousy and hatred that they were thinking of it themselves!
- They planned to kill him and throw his body down in a pit. Then they would lie to their father and tell him that some wild beast had eaten Joseph.
- One of the brothers, Reuben, did not like that idea. He told the brothers they should not kill Joseph. They should just grab him and throw him down in the pit and leave him there.
- Reuben was trying to think of a way to save Joseph's life. He secretly planned to come back later and get Joseph out of the pit.
- When Joseph got close enough to them, his brothers grabbed him. They tore his clothes off him and threw him down into an old well. It was dry in the pit because all the water had dried up.
- Joseph could not get out of the pit. It was too deep. He must have cried. Maybe he said something like, "My brothers! Why are you doing this? I have just come to see you. Father wants to make sure you're OK! Come and get me out of here!"
- His brothers just sat down to eat their lunch, as if they had done nothing wrong.

- While they were eating, they looked up and saw a caravan coming. It was a long line of traders who bought things and sold them at higher prices in the markets. They were carrying all kinds of spices to sell down in Egypt.
- Then Joseph's brother Judah had an idea. "What will we gain if we kill our brother?" he said. Let's sell him to these traders. They are always buying people to work as slaves."
- So they pulled Joseph out of the deep pit. Joseph might have hoped he would be free.

Vocabulary

Ten

One

Two

Twelve

Family

Father

Brother(s)

Hate

Fight(s)

Sheep

Pit

Kill

Lie