

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Don't say you're sorry just because you got caught. Say you're sorry and mean it!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of apologizing when they wrong someone.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 5:23-24. Jesus teaches about making amends.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." - Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)

Go around the room and have everyone say one word of the verse until you've said the entire verse. Then try to do it backwards.

SUMMARY:

We were taught to say, "I'm sorry" at an early age. But do we really mean it, or are we only sorry that we got caught? God wants us to be sincere with our sorry, with him, and with others. God wants us to apologize without excuses and to make things right.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times we've hurt you. Help us to ask for forgiveness when we hurt others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEM NEEDED:

Game piece from McDonalds or some other vendor that says “Sorry, You Did Not Win” or a photo of one.

For the purposes of this script, McDonalds will be used as the example. If possible, begin the lesson by peeling off the game piece and revealing the sorry message. Have a back up - just in case you DO win!

Have you all seen these game pieces? The other day when I went to McDonalds, I was so excited. I saw this game piece and I just KNEW I was going to be a winner. I got the game piece, scratched it off, and what did I read? “Sorry, You Did Not Win.”

“Sorry.” McDonalds wants me to know they are sorry. But how many of you think that McDonalds is really sorry I did not win? The whole point of this game was to get more people to come in and buy their food. The more food I buy, the more chances I have to win. But who’s the real winner in all this? McDonalds, because they keep taking my money!

People say they’re sorry for a lot of reasons. They’re sorry they got caught. They’re sorry, but they’re not really sorry, because they sent your game piece back to the starting point. But not enough people know how to say they are really and truly sorry.

Saying sorry and meaning it means we don’t make excuses and we don’t have something to gain. We acknowledge we have done wrong and that we have no excuse. What’s more, we are willing to set things right. If something is broken, we fix it. If trust has been broken, we commit ourselves to restoring that trust. We confess our mistake, and we take action to fix it.

Don’t tell someone you’re sorry if you don’t really mean it. Just like this game piece, we know when you’re really sorry and when you’re not.

FAMILY GAME TIME

BROOM-FREE ICE-FREE CURLING

ITEMS NEEDED:

Tape

Four large balls (soccer or basketballs will do)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Prior to the game, tape a 4' diameter circle on the floor. In the center, tape a center point and a 1' diameter circle around the center. Clear out a space at least 20' from the circle, further if possible.

In the order of birthdays (January - December of a calendar year), have each person take a turn rolling their ball toward the circle. The person who rolls the closest to the bulls eye wins.

The kids who go last will have the advantage, as they can bump their opponents out of the way and away from the circle.

VARIATION:

You can have the kids say "Sorry" to their opponents if/when they bump them off the bulls eye.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Saying "Sorry" isn't mandatory when you play the game Sorry (or any other game), but it's mandatory if we want to live a life that honors God.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

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INTRO

There are some things you will never hear a kid say. There are some phrases that no kid, anywhere, ever, has said, or will ever say. Kids have a certain way of viewing the world, and quite honestly, these statements just do not fit in with that view.

Here are some of the things you'll never hear a kid say:

"No thanks, Mom, I don't want dessert. I'll have more broccoli."

"I can't believe it's only five. I wish it was bed time already!"

"I wish my teachers would give me more homework."

"Mom, Dad, I need to be taught a lesson. Will you ground me for the next two weeks?"

There's a phrase that kids DO say quite a bit that I want to talk about this morning. It's a phrase we all use it all the time, but very few people really know what it means, and very few people say it the way they should. It's only two words long, but those two words are some of the most powerful words we can say: "I'm sorry."

When you were just a baby, learning to share with others, mom and dad taught you to say, "I'm sorry." If you bump someone on the playground by accident, you have to make it right and tell that person you're sorry. If someone's having a bad day or suffering a loss, we tell him we are sorry. If we do something intentionally hurtful and are told to make it right, we say, "I'm sorry."

It's easy to say sorry when something happens on accident. Accidents happen. We pick up and we move on.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

And it's not hard to tell someone who just lost a loved one that we are sorry for his loss. No one likes to see someone hurting, and when a loved one hurts, we feel sorry for that person.

But how sorry are you when you're only two years old? In all honesty, how sorry is a kid - any age kid - who did something wrong, got caught, and has to make it right? About as sorry as the guy who sends your playing piece back to start in the board game Sorry.

If you've never played the game, the object is to move a group of pieces around the board from start to finish. If your game piece lands on a space occupied by another player, you say, "Sorry," and send his game piece back to the start. It's a fun game, but it can be aggravating. And no one is really sorry to send your piece back to the beginning.

A kid who got caught snitching candy isn't sorry for his actions. He's sorry he got caught. They're no different than the big time athletes who cheat and get caught. They're not usually sorry for what they did. They're sorry because they got caught.

Jesus teaches us that saying sorry is serious stuff, serious enough that we need to make amends with other people before we should ask Jesus to make amends with us.

READ Matthew 5:23-24

MAIN POINT

In other words Jesus is saying, "Don't come and tell me you're sorry until you tell the person you hurt you are sorry." And Jesus doesn't want to hear that we're sorry for getting caught, or even, "I'm sorry for what I did, but they deserved it." He wants a genuine, repentant heart to say "I'm sorry" with our words and our actions.

DRIVE IT HOME

Saying sorry takes two things. One, it takes admitting that we have done wrong. This is far and away the hardest part because admitting we are wrong means we let go of any reason we have for doing what we did. Just because someone hurt us doesn't give us the right to hurt him. Just because everyone else is doing it doesn't mean it's right for us. We have to admit that we acted selfishly, and we have to admit the action was wrong.

Listen to the words of King David after he sinned against God.

Read Psalm 51:1-9

What a contrast to the phony apologies we make about Sorry game pieces!

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

David doesn't leave any wiggle room for casting blame on anyone but himself. He makes no excuses. He sinned, and he is very sorry for doing so.

The second part of saying we're sorry is making things right. In the Old Testament, we read that a person who killed someone else's sheep, even on accident, had to give that person two sheep. I don't expect anyone in here will ever kill somebody's sheep, but the idea for us is still the same. If we take someone's toy, we need to give it back. If we break the toy, we need to replace it. If we break a neighbor's window, even if it's an accident, we have to do something to fix the window. As much as possible, we need to set things back the way they were, or better, to show that we truly are sorry for our actions.

It's not easy to say you're sorry and mean it. There will be times you'd rather eat broccoli for dessert than say you're sorry. But God wants us to take those words very seriously, with him and with others. Saying we're sorry is our way of saying, "This is not right. I'm going to make it right. And I'm not going to hurt you like this again." Sorry can't fix everything, but it can mend a broken friendship. It can be a first step to restoring trust. And it can be a first step to showing someone that your faith in God is real.

It's important to say you're sorry when someone has been wronged, but don't say it until you're ready to mean it. Sorry isn't a way to make excuses. It's the first step to making things right!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times we've hurt you. Help us to ask forgiveness when we hurt others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER

What's the last thing that you had to apologize for?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 5:23-24

What does Jesus say we should do before we ask forgiveness from God?

Why do you think God wants us to make things right with other people before we get right with him?

How many of you have ever said you were sorry, but didn't really mean it? In other words, were you more sorry for what you did, or for getting caught?

Why is it so hard to say we're sorry sometimes? Is it because we're not really sorry?

Read Psalm 51:1-9

How does David's attitude in this Psalm compare to famous people who are more sorry they got caught?

What are some actions we can take to show people we are sorry?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We are sorry for the way we have treated others, and we are sorry for the times when we've said those words and not meant it. Forgive us for holding back, and help us to mean what we say when we apologize to others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

LESSON REVIEW GAME

Is this something to apologize for or not?

Sneezing on someone else's food.

SORRY

Winning a game of checkers.

NOT SORRY

Ruining someone's Lego spaceship.

SORRY

Not listening to Mom and Dad.

SORRY

Going to bed as soon as you are asked.

NOT SORRY

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw a picture of someone making amends with a friend, or encourage them to write a sorry note to someone whom they have wronged.