

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

When God gives a second chance to start over, we can learn from our mistakes and do things the right way.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God gives second chances.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 2:11-15; 3:1-10. God gives Moses a second chance.

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)

As a family come up with hand motions to go along with the memory verse.

SUMMARY:

In the game of Trouble, the most frustrating thing is when your game piece gets sent back to the beginning. It's no fun when you get in trouble and have to start all over, but when we make mistakes, sometimes starting over is the best thing. God is a God of second chances, and when we get that second chance, we can learn from our mistakes and do things the right way.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your forgiveness, and thank you for always giving us second chances.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A cake or other homemade food item that didn't turn out right. (Have fun with this!)

Tell the kids you made them a special treat. Let them get excited, then bring out your cake wreck and check their reactions to it.

Have you ever come to the dinner table and dinner just didn't look right? Maybe mom forgot a key ingredient to the recipe. Maybe Dad forgot to put something in to make dinner taste good. Maybe the cake fell apart when they took it out of the pan. Whatever happened, it wasn't right, and they decided to serve it to you anyway.

If it tastes good, there's usually no harm done. Ugly food can still be nutritious food. But sometimes things go so bad, we have no choice but to throw it out and start all over.

Moses was in the same position in our story today. Moses was God's chosen man to lead his people out of slavery. As prince of Egypt, Moses could have done a lot for Israel. But Moses didn't do things God's way. He killed a man and tried to cover it up. As a result, he ended up in exile. For forty years, Moses worked as a shepherd, tending to sheep, living with the memory of what he did. Then God called him to return to Egypt and lead his people.

Moses didn't get to return as prince. He had to start over. He was an outsider to his people and to the people he once called his family. But Moses did things God's way, and he led Israel to freedom.

When we get in trouble, the worst thing we can do is try to cover it up. We need to admit our mistakes and accept the consequences, even if that means starting over. God is willing to give us a second chance, but only if we are willing to go back to the beginning and do it his way!

FAMILY GAME TIME

SIMON SAYS

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Play a very fast paced game of Simon Says. Show no mercy. Be quick. Be challenging. See how fast you can eliminate all but one. One mistake and you're out.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

In this game there are no second chances, but God is always willing to let us start over.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

When God gives us a second chance to start over, we can learn from our mistakes and do things the right way.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God gives second chances.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 2:11-15; 3:1-10. God gives Moses a second chance.

INTRO

There's a scene from an old movie where a man who flew across the Atlantic Ocean is asked to tell the story. The man steps up to the podium and he tells this story.

"The first time we tried to fly across the ocean, we got about half way across when we ran out of gas. So we had to go back. The next time we tried, we took twice as much gas. We were just about to land, just a few feet off the ground when what happens? We run out of gas, so we have to go back. This time I took plenty of gas. We got about half way across when what do you know, we forgot the plane. So we had to go back. So the next time, I decide we won't take a plane. We won't take any gas. We'll take a steam ship! And that's how we flew across the Atlantic Ocean."

(Adapted from "A Night at the Opera.")

It's a goofy story, but there's a lesson in there: sometimes, when we get ourselves into trouble, the only solution is to go back and start over. When our plans fail, when the dinner we tried to cook falls apart, when we really, really mess something up, the worst thing we can do is try to cover it up and move on. Better to cut our losses, go back to square one, and start again.

One of the great heroes of the Bible learned this lesson the hard way. His name was Moses. Moses was raised in the palace of Pharaoh, but he was not an Egyptian. His mother was the Hebrew slave who raised him for the princess of Egypt.

Moses' people were slaves, but they were also God's chosen people, the nation of Israel. God had a plan to free Israel from the Egyptians, and he chose Moses to be their leader.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

We don't know whether Moses knew of this plan as a young man, but it's clear Moses had sympathy for his people. He didn't like seeing them mistreated by the Egyptians, and one day, he decided to take action.

READ Exodus 2:11-15

MAIN POINT

Reading this story is almost like reading what would happen if a real life Batman were to appear in our world. Sure, he's fighting crime, righting wrongs, and standing up for the oppressed, but he's also breaking the law. What's worse, he tried to cover up his crimes and hide it, knowing that a murder conviction would ruin his whole future.

But Moses wasn't able to hide his crime. As we see in the story, word of Moses' actions spread to the other slaves. There was no patching things up, no fixing it and moving on. Moses had no choice but to flee Egypt.

Moses went out into the wilderness. He went to work tending sheep for a man named Jethro and married Jethro's daughter. He was no longer prince of Egypt. He was no one special. Moses was back to square one.

A long time later, Moses saw a strange sight that would give him a new beginning.

Read Exodus 3:1-10

God was not through with Moses. He was ready to save his people Israel, and Moses was still his guy.

DRIVE IT HOME

There are three things we can learn from the story of Moses. First, starting over isn't the end. It's a new beginning. Moses lost his place as a member of Pharaoh's family, but he found a new family with Jethro.

Second, our God is a God of second chances. We see this all throughout the scripture in the stories of Peter, Paul, and other heroes of the faith. Once Moses had admitted his sins and accepted the consequences, God knew he was ready for a fresh start. Moses was no longer the brash young man who murdered the slave driver. He was older, more mature, wiser. He was ready to do things the right way.

Finally, the lessons we learned from failing and starting over will help us on our second chance. It's not easy to start over when you've worked so hard. It's not easy to admit you've made a mistake that will force you to undo everything. But the mistakes we make are opportunities to learn. The next time, we can do it differently. The next time, we will do it better. We won't make the same mistakes as before.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

We will be wiser, and we will succeed where we failed.

Nobody's perfect. We're all going to make mistakes, and we're all going to have times when we have to start over. No one likes having to swallow their pride and start over, but when you find yourself in trouble and back at square one, don't let it get you down. Ask God to help you learn from your experience.

If you make mistakes, confess them. Don't try to bury them in the sand. Remember that God is a God of second chances, and if he does give you a second chance, don't forget all you learned from your first experience. God has a plan for you, and if God takes you back to square one, stay faithful. God wasn't finished with Moses, and he's not through with you either!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for your forgiveness, and thank you for always giving us second chances.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER

What's the WORST thing you can do in your house, according to the house rules? The one thing that will get you in bigger trouble than anything else?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Exodus 2:11-15

What did Moses do when he saw the slaves being mistreated?

What happened when Moses tried to cover up the murder?

Why did God give Moses a second chance?

Why did God wait so long to call Moses back to Egypt?

Does God still give second chances to people?

Is there a situation in your life right now where you need to go back and start over?

What's the first step to doing the right thing, after you've made a mistake?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times when we sin. Forgive us for looking for short cuts and for trying to hide our mistakes. Give us the courage to admit our mistakes, and give us the sec-ond chances we need to do things right.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What's the WORST thing you can do in your house, according to the house rules? The one thing that will get you in bigger trouble than anything else?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Proverbs 4:18

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Go around the group. Introduce yourselves, and share a time when you received a second chance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Exodus 2:11-15

Why do you think Moses wanted to help the Israelites?

What happened when Moses tried to cover up the murder?

What are some things that we do that may cause us to have to start over?

Is there a situation in your life right now where you need to go back and start over?

What's the first step to doing the right thing, after you've made a mistake?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times when we sin. Forgive us for looking for short cuts and for trying to hide our mistakes. Give us the courage to admit our mistakes, and give us the second chances we need to do things right.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

LESSON REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE.

Moses was an Egyptian by birth.

FALSE

Moses had to run away after killing a man.

TRUE

God refused to give Moses a second chance.

FALSE

God is always giving us second chances.

TRUE

If we want a second chance, we need to first admit our faults to God.

TRUE

