

Lesson #17

Hebrews 9:11-28; Rom 3:25-26

Feb. 25, 2015

** Before class, cut a sponge in the shape of cross. Mark up a white board, making it "dirty." In class, you will use the sponge to wipe away the marks or the dirt, demonstrating that Jesus' sacrifice for us wiped away our sin and made us clean.*

Brian and Josh were brothers. Brian was the big brother and Josh was the little brother. One morning, Josh and Brian's mom called the boys downstairs for breakfast. She always told them, "Don't run down the stairs. Someone might trip and fall or something might get broken if you run." Josh wanted to get downstairs before Brian so he could get his plate of pancakes first. Josh took off running down the stairs to beat his brother. But on his way down, Josh tripped and crashed into the table at the bottom of the stairs. On the table was mom's favorite vase. When Josh hit the table, he knocked over the vase. It fell onto the floor and broke into many tiny pieces. Josh began to cry.

Their mom ran into the room to see what the commotion was all about. When she saw the toppled table, the broken vase, and Josh sitting on the floor in tears, she knew what had happened. After she made sure that Josh wasn't hurt, she said, "You see, this is why I don't want you to run down the stairs. You could have gotten hurt, and now my favorite vase is broken."

As punishment, mom instructed Josh to stand in the corner—he'd have to wait to eat his breakfast. Brian, Josh's big brother, had been watching everything from the top of the stairs. "Wait, Mom," Brian called out. "I'll stand in the corner for Josh. I'll take his punishment and stand in his place for him so that he doesn't have to be punished." "Really?" Their mother replied, her eyes wide with surprise. Josh was even more surprised. Why would Brian take *his* punishment?

After Brian stood in the corner for a few minutes, Mom announced that the punishment was over. She pulled both boys close to her and said, "Brian, when you took Josh's punishment, you showed Josh how much you love him. He deserved his punishment, but you took it for him. That's called sacrifice. And that's what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross! He stood in our place. Jesus died for us so that our sin—the bad choices we make—could be forgiven and we could have a relationship with God the Father. Jesus' sacrifice was an act of love. He took the punishment for our sin."

Show the children the dirty whiteboard surface and explain that the dirt is like the sin in our lives. When we disobey our parents, or lie, or say mean things it hurts God's heart. God is perfect and holy. We can't be with God if we sin. We have to be punished. But God made another way for us to be with Him forever. When God sent His perfect son Jesus to die in our place, Jesus wiped away our sins. (Wipe the dirty surface clean with your sponge). Can you believe that God loves us so much that He sent his Son to die for us? And the best news is that Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later, Jesus rose from

grave! Now, Jesus lives in our hearts and we can be with Him in Heaven forever. Let's thank God for sending Jesus to take on our punishment and die for us.

Pray: "Dear God, thank you for loving me so much that you sent your son Jesus to be punished in my place. Thank you for loving me, even when I sometimes make bad choices. Help me to make good choices and please you. Amen."

Bible Verse: "God gave Christ as a sacrifice to pay for sins through the spilling of his blood. So God forgives the sins of those who have faith." Romans 3:25a

Grow at Home #17
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Today the children learned these God facts:

- God loves me.
- Jesus died to take away the punishment for my sin.

Live it Out: Every person, ever born, throughout all of history has sinned—everyone, except Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He offered himself as a sacrifice for the sin of all humankind. Being right with God no longer requires the blood sacrifice of animals as in the Old Testament. Belief in God’s son means we aren’t punished for our sins by death as the law required, but we are forgiven and set free.

In today’s lesson, we learned about a little boy who stepped in to take a punishment in place of his little brother. We learned that what Jesus did for us was a little bit like that. But, Jesus loves us so much more than even our parents, grandparents or siblings.

Talk to your child about a time when you were young and did something wrong. Emphasize the love and compassion you felt after being forgiven. Tell your child how glad you are that Jesus forgives our sin so we can be with God forever.

This week, help your child start memorizing John 3:16. Keep the phrases small to start out. Make up hand motions together to signal each key word. Say each word with your child and do the motions together. This verse will provide a foundation for future scripture memory.

Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for your love and forgiveness. Thank you for sending Jesus to take the punishment for my sin. Amen.”

Bible Verse: “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” John 3:16a