

THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT TWO: GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS

Lesson 8: Jesus Said Yes and Saved Us

CONTENT:

1. Like Mary, Jesus also said 'Yes' to God's plan. When it was time for him to begin his work, he went into the desert alone to get ready. The devil tried to stop him from obeying God but Jesus (unlike Adam and Eve) remained faithful to God. [CCC538-539]
2. Jesus then went out and taught people about God. He healed the sick and called people back to God.[CCC541]
3. When the time came for his suffering and death, Jesus again said 'Yes'. He did not run away or fight back, but accepted his cross.
4. While he was hanging on the cross, he gave Mary to be the mother of all of us. [CCC964,973]
5. After Jesus died, he was buried. Then on the third day he became alive again. God's plan had worked. All those who say 'Yes' to God could now live with God forever. [CCC658]



6. We ask our mother Mary to help us to reach heaven by saying the 'Holy Mary'. [CCC2677]

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home. Find someone who doesn't know the story of Jesus and tell them the story.

REFERENCES: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:14-15; John 19:26-27.
CCC 538-39; 541; 658; 964; 973; 2677.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

- Did you wear your 'Yes God' badge? Did you try to do whatever God asked you to do?
[The children could share any time they tried to obey God.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Last time we heard about the angel and Mary. When the Holy Spirit covered Mary, little baby Jesus began to grow inside her. Let's find out what happened to Mary's baby after he was born.

Baby Jesus grew up like any of you. He became bigger and bigger and learnt many new things, just as you do. He became a boy and then a man. For many years he lived quietly at home with his mother Mary and Joseph.

Then, when Jesus was 30 years old he knew it was time for him to go out and begin his work. He left his home and went into the desert to get ready. (*A desert is a place with no water, no trees and no people.*) For 40 days Jesus was all alone. He didn't eat anything (This is called fasting) and he spent his time praying and getting ready.

When the devil saw what was going on, he got worried. He didn't want Jesus to save us all. He said, "I'll make him say 'no' to God, just as I made Adam and Eve say 'no'." So he came to Jesus in the desert and said, "Why do you want to obey God? Why should you have pain? Don't listen to God. Listen to me. I'll make you rich. I'll make you great. I'll give you many nice things."

But Jesus didn't get fooled like Adam and Eve. He didn't fall for the devil's tricks. He said, "Go away from me Satan! I will not listen to you, but I will do what my Father wants me to do!"

When the devil heard this, he gave up and ran away. Suddenly angels came and looked after Jesus. God was very happy with his Son because he had said 'no' to the devil and 'yes' to him.

Jesus was ready now for his work. He went out and started calling people back to God. He made sick people well and told wonderful stories about God. Many many people came to hear his stories. Many sad people became happy when they met Jesus.

[Give out the handouts. Read the written matter next to the first picture. The children could colour the fist picture.]

NEXT CLASS:

Do you remember what happened to Jesus when he was in the desert? Why did he go there?

[Let the children share what they remember about Jesus' encounter with the devil in the desert.]

Let's find out what happened next to Jesus.

After three years the time came for Jesus to die. There were some rich and powerful people who were jealous of Jesus. They sent soldiers to catch him. Jesus knew that his Father had sent him to take our punishment and save us. He was ready. So when the soldiers came, he didn't fight or run away. When they hit him and spat on him he kept quiet. They made a crown out of thorny branches and pressed it on his head. Then they put a heavy cross on his shoulders and made him carry it up to a hill. He was very, very tired and hurt all over his body, but he kept on walking because he wanted to save us and take us back to God.

When Jesus reached the hill, the soldiers hammered big nails into Jesus' hands and feet and fixed him onto the cross. Then they put the cross up. For a long, long time Jesus hung on the cross in the hot sun.

When he looked down, he saw his mother Mary standing near the cross. He told her, "Now you must be a mother to all my friends." Then Jesus died.

His friends took his body down from the cross. They put his dead body in a cave and rolled a huge stone over the entrance. All Jesus' friends were very sad. They thought, "Everything is finished! Jesus is gone." The devil also thought, "I've won! Jesus is dead! He cannot save anyone now."

But after 3 days, something wonderful happened. The ground shook and the stone covering the cave was rolled away. An angel appeared, bright as lightening, and told Jesus' friends, "Jesus is alive. He has risen from the dead."

It was true! Jesus was alive again. God's plan had worked. Now, all those who said 'yes' to God would be saved. They could go to heaven and live with God forever.

[Read the second section in the handout together. Children colour the pictures in silence. As they do, ask them to think about the story. Go around and ask a few questions to the children individually. E.g. 2nd picture: Who was standing near Jesus? What do you think she is feeling? What is Jesus telling her? Whose mother is she? 3rd picture: What is happening in this picture? Is it a happy or sad picture? Why is Jesus looking happy? Do you think he wants you to come to heaven?]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- How many mothers do you have? *[We have our own mother at home; and we have a mother in heaven.. you also have a godmother... so the answer is 3!]*
- Our mother in heaven is Mary. She wants us to come to heaven and be happy forever, so let's ask for her help. [Read the prayer aloud and explain it, as follows]
 - We say 'pray for us sinners' because all of us do wrong things. We all say 'no' to God sometimes.
 - 'At the hour of our death' means the time when we have to die. Mary prays for us and helps us, now and specially when it is time for us to die. When Jesus was dying she was there with him, and when we are dying she will also be with us.

[The children pray the Holy Mary slowly but meaningfully.]

Home assignment: Read the handout at home. Find someone who doesn't know the story of Jesus and tell them the story.