


HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT TWO: God Led His People

Lesson 6: Living in Peace

CONTENT:

1. The fifth Commandment that Moses received was, 'You shall not kill.' When Jesus came he explained what God meant when he said this:
 - God wants us to live in peace with each other, and not hate or hurt each other.
 -  - Even if someone hurts us, we should love them, do good to them and pray for them.
 - If we are angry with others or insult them we are going against God's commandment.
2. Jesus lived what he taught. When Peter attacked one of Jesus' enemies in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told him to put his sword away. Then he healed the man's ear.
3. Pope John Paul II also followed Jesus' way. He forgave the man who tried to kill him and visited him in prison.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout. Learn the Bible verse.

REFERENCES: Matthew 5:21-22, 38-48. CCC; 2262, 2303. *JohnPaulMoments.com*

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

- We have been thinking about the Commandments that God gave Moses. How many were there altogether? [*Ten*] Which commandment did we learn about last time? [*The 4th commandment: Honour your father and mother.*]
- Today we are going to look at the 5th Commandment. Did you find out about it? What does it say? [*You shall not kill.*]
- What does this mean? That we should not kill a mosquito? Or a cockroach? Or a chicken? [*No. God meant that we should not hurt or kill any human being.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

When Jesus lived on the earth, he saw how people behaved. As a little boy he noticed how the other children behaved towards each other. If one boy pushed another and made him fall, the other boy would get angry and box him.

Sometimes a whole family would be angry with another family and would not speak to them for years and years. In the market place Jesus saw people shouting at each other and calling each other bad names when they got angry. He knew that all this was wrong and hurt God, so he taught the people God's ways.

Jesus said, "Long ago you heard the commandment, 'You shall not kill'. But it is not enough just not to kill. You must not get angry with each other, insult each other or call each other bad names. Remember who you are! You are God's children, so you must act like your Father."

Then Jesus told them to do something even more difficult. He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you and you will be a true child of God the Father."

[Give out the handouts and let the children fill in the blanks: YOU SHALL NOT KILL; they then pick out the words from the 'cloud' and write them in the appropriate lists.]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Think about all that Jesus said. Is it easy to do? ... It can be very difficult to forgive our enemies. When someone hurts us we feel like shouting and hitting them. Do you think Jesus did what he taught? Was he kind to his enemies?

I'll tell you a story about Jesus. If you close your eyes you will be able to imagine it better.

Once Jesus was in a garden with some of his friends. It was night time and he was praying because he knew something bad was about to happen. Suddenly there was a sound of shouting and they saw the light of fire-torches as soldiers and a crowd of people came into the garden. They had swords and sticks in their hands.

One of them came up to Jesus and kissed him. He said, "Greetings Teacher!" It was Jesus' own apostle, Judas. His kiss was a secret sign to the soldiers that Jesus was the one to catch.

Jesus knew what Judas was up to, but he didn't get angry. He said, "My friend, do what you have come here to do!"

Then the crowd of men came close and caught Jesus. When Peter saw what was going on, he took out his sword and began attacking the men. He cut off one man's ear.

But Jesus said, "No, Peter. No more of this. Put your sword back in its place. Do you think that I have no power? If I wanted to, I could ask my Father and he would send me thousands of soldiers to protect me. But I am ready to die." Then Jesus put his hand on the man's ear and it grew back again!

Some hours later, after Jesus had been cruelly beaten and put on the cross, he thought of Judas and all the others who had been so cruel to him and he prayed, "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they are doing."

Be very quiet now and think of all this. [The students reflect quietly on what they have heard.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we talked about the fifth Commandment. What does it say? [*'You shall not kill.'*]
- Jesus explained what this means. Can you remember all that we should do and shouldn't do? [*The students could refer to the lists made in the handout*]
- Do you remember what happened to Jesus in the garden? [*Students relate the story.*]

There was another person who followed Jesus' way. He was Pope John Paul II. Your parents would remember him. Pope John Paul loved Jesus very much and tried to be like him.

One day on a feast of Mother Mary, the Pope was going to celebrate Mass. He was travelling in his special jeep and there were crowds of people cheering and waving. They loved him very much and felt happy just to see him. As the Pope came near, they lifted up their babies to him and the Pope blessed them and sometimes carried them for a moment.

Suddenly there was a loud sound of gunfire. The Pope fell down, his white clothes covered with blood. Three bullets had gone into his body. Everyone thought he was dead and began to cry and shout. They caught the gunman. He was a man called Ali Agca. He and his friends had planned to kill the Pope.

Meanwhile the Pope's guards quickly took him to hospital. Though he was shot in three places he didn't die. After many months of pain and suffering, he was at last well enough to leave the hospital.

The Pope went to the prison and asked to meet Ali, his attacker. When he went in, Ali didn't look sorry and he didn't ask for forgiveness. He said, "So, why aren't you dead?"

The Pope smiled and said, "My Mother's hand guided the bullet, so that I didn't die." (He was talking about Mother Mary!) Ali got scared when he heard that. He said, "Now your Mother will come after me to punish me!"

But the Pope said, "No she won't do that! See, I have come to give you my forgiveness, not to punish you." He took his hand and smiled at him. Then he asked the police to let him go back to his own country.

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Read the rest of the handouts. Divide the students into groups and ask each group to plan a short skit showing one of the phrases from the top of the handout, either what we **should** or **should not** do.

Eg. Someone who prays for his enemy; Someone who takes revenge.

After each skit is enacted comment on the message very briefly. E.g. 'The boy took revenge on the man who hurt him. But that only made him more unhappy, and took him away from God.']

Home assignment: Read the handout at home. Learn the Bible verse.
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