


HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT TWO: God Led His People

Lesson 7: Speaking the Truth Like Jesus

CONTENT:

1. The Eighth Commandment tells us to be truthful.
2. It is difficult to be truthful sometimes. We feel like telling lies to get out of trouble.
-  But telling lies spoils our friendship with God and with others. Jesus said that lies are from the Devil.
3. Simon Peter told lies soon after Jesus was arrested, because he was afraid of being caught. Later he felt very sorry for betraying his master and friend. God made Peter brave enough to speak the truth even when he was warned not to by the leaders.
4. When Jesus was questioned by the Jewish leaders and then by Pilate, he answered truthfully, even though this led to his death. He said that he had come into the world to bear witness to the truth.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout. Learn the Bible verse.

REFERENCES: John 8:44; 18:37; Luke 22: 54-71; CCC; 2471-72, 2482-83; 2486.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, black sketch-pens.

I. STARTER:

[Write TRUTH on your right palm with a sketch-pen and LIE on your left palm. Ask the children to do the same. Ask them all to stand.]

- We are going to play a game called ‘Truth and Lie’. I will say something and you have to guess if I’m telling the truth or telling a lie. If you think it’s true, put up your right hand, and if you think I’m telling a lie, put up your left. Those who guess wrong will have to sit down.

[Make ‘I’ statements like the following:]

- I have a million rupees in the bank. [LIE?]
- Today I made 20 chapattis. [TRUTH?]
- On the way to school I fed 3 beggars. [TRUTH.. If you did!]
- I never make mistakes. [LIE]
- I sometimes lose my temper and do things that make people sad. [TRUTH]
- I always came first or second in my class when I was in school. [LIE]

[If time permits, have another round with the students making statements, each student makes one statement about himself and the others guess.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Is it easier to tell the truth, or tell a lie? *[Sometimes it can be very difficult to tell the truth.]*
- When do you feel like telling a lie? *[When we are afraid of getting into trouble, or when we don’t want others to laugh at us.]*
- Sometimes we tell Daddy, “No I didn’t break the window!” because we’re afraid of getting a beating. Or we say, “My Dad has a Toyota car!”, because we’re ashamed of not having one, and think the other children will laugh at us.

Jesus’ friend Simon Peter was like you and me. Once when he was afraid he told lies not just once, but three times. Remember what happened in the garden? Jesus was caught by the soldiers and Peter acted very brave and cut off a man’s ear with his sword. But when he saw Jesus being taken away by the soldiers he didn’t feel brave anymore. He became very afraid. “Now they’ll catch all of us, and punish us along with Jesus!” he thought. He covered his head and followed Jesus from far away, hiding among the crowd of people.

When Peter saw Jesus being taken into the high priest's house, he also slipped into the gate with the other people. It was night, so he thought, "No one will see my face or recognise me in the dark." As the people waited outside the house, someone made a fire, because it was very cold. They all sat around the fire, talking about Jesus and what would happen to him.

Peter was also cold, so he came closer and closer to the fire. Suddenly one of the servant-girls started staring at him. (Now his face could be seen in the light of the fire.) She said in a loud voice, "Hey! Aren't you one of Jesus' friends? I think I saw you in the garden with him!" But Peter said, "Keep quiet woman! I don't know this Jesus you are talking about." (LIE NUMBER ONE!)

Another man heard the girl and looked hard at Peter. "Yes, I think you are the one who took out a sword and was fighting!" But Peter said, "Man, You're thinking of someone else. I've never seen this Jesus before!" (LIE NUMBER TWO)

One hour passed and Peter thought, "Good! They've forgotten about me. I'm safe." There was a noise at the door and they saw Jesus tied up, being pushed and pulled by the soldiers. Suddenly a man pointed to Peter and said, "Look, he's dressed just like Jesus. He's from the same place. He must be his friend!"

Then Peter shouted, "Man, I told you I don't know this man. How can I be his friend?" Just then, Jesus turned and looked straight at Peter. He looked sad. Peter suddenly realised what a bad thing he had done. He had told lies and pretended he didn't know Jesus. He had hurt his best friend! He ran away and cried and cried till he could cry no more.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Whenever we tell lies we hurt God and we spoil our friendship with others too. Once Jesus said, "Those who tell lies are obeying the Devil, because he is a liar and the father of lies!"

Be quiet now and think: Do I want to hurt God? Do I want to spoil my friendship with others? Do I want to follow the Devil?... or God? Ask God to help you to be truthful.

[The students reflect quietly.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we heard how Peter told lies because he was afraid of getting caught. Do you know what happened to Jesus after he came out of the high priest's house?
The high priest called all the leaders and priests for a meeting to decide what to do with Jesus. They were jealous of Jesus and wanted to find a reason to kill him. So they told the guards to bring Jesus in and they said, "If anyone calls himself God, he is committing a big sin and will have to be killed. Tell us, are you God's real Son?"
Jesus knew what they would do to him if he answered truthfully, but he said, "Yes I am!"
The priests said, "Now we've got him! We heard what he said with our own ears. He has to die!"
But they were not allowed to kill anyone themselves, so they took him to the Roman officer in charge. His name was Pilate. They said to Pilate, "This man calls himself a king. Put him to death!"
Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you a king?"
Jesus again spoke the truth. He said, "Yes I am a king. I am a king from heaven. I came into this world to speak the truth." Then Jesus was taken away to be killed.
But that is not the end of the story! There is a happy ending. Jesus became alive again on Easter Sunday. Peter was able to say sorry to him and Jesus forgave him. God sent the Holy Spirit on Peter and he became strong and brave. After Jesus went to heaven, Peter boldly talked about Jesus, even when the leaders told him to stop. He wanted to be like his Master Jesus and speak the truth, even if it caused him trouble.

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Give out the handouts, read the written matter and fill in the missing words. The students connect the balloons to the appropriate hands by drawing strings. On the reverse of the handout they draw themselves telling the truth in a difficult situation. They add people, callouts, thought-bubbles etc.]

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