

EQUIP Leader Lesson Outline

May 17th, 2020

Introduction

SHARE: Leaders, share a story with your family when a friend helped you, or you helped a friend out of a situation.

SAY THIS: Here's the Big Idea: **Only Jesus can save us from our sins.** And the Key Verse: **"I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."** (Mark 2:10) Sometimes we can feel like our sins are too great for God. We may feel like we must do enough good things to be forgiven.

QUESTION: Ask your family members how they would try to be forgiven of their sins if they did not know about Jesus. (For younger kids, encourage them to share their sin). *(Here's some examples: I would try to do a lot of good things. I would give all my money away. I would plead and beg God to forgive me over and over again.)*

Scripture

SAY THIS: There is a story in the Bible where a group of guys brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus through a roof! Now, Jesus had already performed several miracles and was becoming quite popular. When Jesus came to a town called Capernaum (the town he grew up in), the people crowded around him. The teachers of the law (the Old Testament) were interested as well. These teachers were known to be very knowledgeable of the Old Testament, but they were also prideful and were not very loving. So when the group of guys heard Jesus was in town, they carried their friend to Jesus in hopes that he could heal him. Unfortunately, when they got to the house Jesus was staying at, they couldn't even walk through the doorway! Ancient Capernaum houses could not hold more than 50 people, so people were likely busting out the seams! But the guys hatched a plan to dig through the roof and to lower their friend in. Ancient near-eastern roofs were built with a mixture of mud and straw. It was strong enough to walk on, but easy enough to dig through. After the friend was lowered and met Jesus, the teachers of the law became angry because Jesus said he had forgiven the man of his sins! You see, the Old Testament teaches that forgiveness of sin had to be done at the altar in the temple. An animal had to be sacrificed, and once blood was shed, then only God could forgive sin. To the teachers, Jesus was doing it all wrong!

READ: Pick one of your family members to read this passage, Mark 2:1-12

PRAY: Lead your family in a short time of prayer.

Truth

SAY THIS: Jesus was not upset when the group of friends ruined the roof. He was thrilled that they would do whatever it took to get to him, because it showed that the friends had great faith in Jesus. But before Jesus healed the man from paralysis, he saw what the man really needed was to be forgiven of his sin. And it was because of his faith that Jesus forgave the man of his sin.

QUESTION: Without the faith of the friends, the crippled man would have never even gotten to Jesus! Ask your family members if they have any friends in their life they could impact with their faith in Jesus. *(It doesn't necessarily have to be non-christian friends. We can strengthen our Christians friends with our faith too!)*

SAY THIS: The teachers of the law claimed that Jesus sinned by telling the man his sins were forgiven. Why? Because that's something only God can do (they didn't believe Jesus was God). However, healing a paralytic is also something only God can do. So if he can do one, he can do the other confirming he is God.

**If you want to dig deeper, check this out!*

So why does Jesus ask which is easier? Saying "you are healed" to a paralytic is a harder claim to make because this is something that is visibly proven (if his legs still don't work they know he's a fraud). Saying "you are forgiven" is an easier claim to make because it's an invisible process (nobody can vouch for it). Therefore, if Jesus can heal his body, he must also be able to forgive his sin.

QUESTION: Ask your family members why Jesus had the authority to forgive sin. *(Jesus was God, and Jesus was also the sacrifice that would allow forgiveness).*

SAY THIS: You may think that by being good your sins can be forgiven however, no amount of good deeds can save us. Because we ruined our life with sin, it would take someone else to live a sinless life in place of our own. Yet, that is exactly what Jesus did. Remember, the Old Testament teaches that an animal needed to be sacrificed at the temple to forgive sin. Just like how an animal's life was sacrificed at the temple in place of someone's life, Jesus' life is sacrificed on the cross in place of our life.

Application

SAY THIS: Our outward actions show our inward self. Real faith is backed up by action.

QUESTION: Ask your family how their faith in God can be more visible to the people around them. *(Here's some examples: When something doesn't go according to plan, we don't worry. When a friend is going through a rough spot, we console them. When someone needs to be lifted up, we share a Bible verse).*

CHALLENGE: Challenge your family members to be a good friend -- pick a friend, pray for them, and send them a text to let them know they're thinking about them. Who knows how it will impact them?

SAY THIS: Even though we may try to run from God because of our sin, know that only Jesus can save us. He is the only person that can restore and forgive us.

End

SAY THIS: Remember, the Big Idea is that **Only Jesus can save us from our sin.** And the Key Verse is that **"I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."** (Mark 2:10)

PRAY: Close out the lesson with a prayer.