

STD 4 Lesson 9 : Let Us Get Reconciled

Introduction (10 minutes)

Objective: To introduce the concept of repentance and forgiveness through the story of the Prodigal Son and to explain how God's love and forgiveness work in our lives.

Activity:

1. **Opening Prayer:** Begin with a simple prayer asking for understanding and forgiveness.
2. **Story Introduction:** Show the picture of the Prodigal Son and ask the children if they know what the story is about. Briefly explain that it's about a son who made mistakes but was welcomed back with love and forgiveness by his father.

Presentation of Topic (15 minutes)

Objective: To explain the story of the Prodigal Son, the concept of repentance, and the importance of reconciliation with God and others.

Lesson Content:

1. **Bible Story:** Read Luke 15:11-24, focusing on the Prodigal Son's journey, repentance, and return. Emphasize how the father welcomed him back with open arms, showing forgiveness and love.
2. **Discussion:** Explain:
 - **What is Repentance?** Repentance means feeling sorry for our mistakes and deciding to change our behavior. Just like the Prodigal Son felt sorry for leaving his father and wanted to come back, we should feel sorry for our sins and ask for forgiveness.
 - **Types of Sin:** Introduce the concept of mortal and venial sins in simple terms:
 - **Mortal Sin:** Serious sins that break our relationship with God completely.
 - **Venial Sin:** Less serious sins that hurt our relationship with God but don't completely break it.
 - **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Explain that this is a special way to ask for forgiveness from God, through a priest who helps us reconcile with God.

Bible Verse: "So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). Discuss how this verse reminds us to make things right with others before coming to God.

Practical Application (10 minutes)

Objective: To help children understand how to apply the lesson of repentance and reconciliation in their own lives.

Activity:

1. **Role-Playing:** Create simple scenarios where children might need to ask for forgiveness or reconcile with others (e.g., arguing with a friend, not sharing toys). Let them role-play how to apologize and make things right.
2. **Reflection Sheet:** Distribute activity sheets with prompts like “A time I said sorry,” and “How I can make things right.” Have children complete the sheets, reflecting on how they can practice forgiveness and reconciliation in their lives.

Activity (15 minutes)

Objective: To reinforce the lesson through a creative and engaging activity.

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers or stamps (optional)

Activity:

1. **Forgiveness Tree:** Create a "Forgiveness Tree" on a large piece of paper. Have each child decorate a leaf with a way they can practice forgiveness or reconciliation (e.g., helping a friend, saying sorry). Attach the leaves to the tree as a visual representation of growing in forgiveness.
2. **Storybook Creation:** Have the children draw and write a short story about a time they needed to ask for forgiveness or a time they forgave someone, inspired by the Prodigal Son story.