

We Learn to Forgive

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: "All-Holy Trinity"

Introduction: Story of Peter's Denial and Jesus' Forgiveness.

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- Basic 1:* Jesus taught us to...
- Basic 2:* Jesus Forgives Peter
- Group:* Enact “Jesus Forgives Peter”
- Craft:* Peter’s Tears

Closing: “All-Holy Trinity”

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I: The Holy Trinity
Packet II:

Teaching Pics

Objective: The students will be able to respond "I forgive you" when asked, "What should say when someone has hurt you?"

For the Catechist

In this final lesson of the unit, the students learn that they must not only love and ask forgiveness when they have failed to love, but that they must forgive others who have hurt them. In the previous lesson they learned to say "I'm sorry." In this lesson they learn to say "I forgive you."

Forgiveness is foundational to Christian living and yet one of the hardest concepts to live. Asking for forgiveness is difficult. So also is forgiving. No one likes getting hurt. Be patient with the children as they share their stories. Acknowledge how difficult it is to forgive someone. The lesson is illustrated by the story of Peter's Denial of Jesus. Refer back to how Jesus forgave Peter. If Jesus wants us to forgive and showed us that it is possible, we must learn to forgive.

The story of Peter's denial is easy for the students to remember: there is action—Jesus is arrested, and Peter follows; repetition—the same question and the denial; imagery—a cock crowing and Peter's emotional weeping; and finally suspense—what will Jesus say to Peter on the beach? Tell it slowly and clearly to let the students engage themselves.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

The Image Restored

'To restore the Image in fallen Adam': this is how the Fathers described the purpose of Christ's coming. He restores that Image in us when we are grafted onto the Body of Christ in the mysteries of initiation. When, burdened and tried by sin, we need His healing touch, He meets us in two mysteries of restoration: repentance and holy unction.

"We are encouraged to confess our sins whenever we are conscious of having seriously strayed from the

Lord's way. Traditionally we approach the mystery of repentance during the fasting seasons of the Church year and many parishes have penitential services during those times. Some priests are available for confession after vespers or before the Liturgy on the Lord's Day or upon request, depending on their other commitments.

"The Byzantine style of confession stresses that we are confessing to Christ through the medium of the Church. The penitent stands in front of a crucifix, an icon of Christ or the holy gospel book and beside the priest. The penitent confesses his sins, after which he receives spiritual instruction from the priest, who is to act more like a physician than a judge. As the priest recites the prayer of absolution, the penitent bows his head so that the priest may cover him with the end of his epitrachelion. This is a symbolic and tangible sign that God's grace has overshadowed the penitent and restored him to a state of friendship with God" (*DC 90*).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Our prayer for this unit is a prayer to the Holy Trinity. In this prayer we learn to ask forgiveness when we hurt someone or sin. [Pass out index cards to 5 students. Review words.] I will say the prayer now; and when I point to you, read the words on your index cards. [Say the words slowly to let the children participate.] Let's go to the icon corner now and pray to the Trinity. Let's get ready to pray. [Make the sign of the cross, and pray slowly to let the children participate.]

Introduction

We are learning about love and forgiveness. This is the last unit in this lesson and may be the most important. We've learned that Jesus' most important teaching was "love one another." We talked about many ways we love our parents, family, and friends. We also talked about how we ask forgiveness when we have failed to love or sinned. It is hard to say "I'm sorry." When someone says that to us, we should say, "I forgive you." Are those easy words to say all the time? Is it easy to forgive someone who has hurt you? [Allow for stories.]

We must forgive others who have hurt us. Jesus taught us that love and forgiveness go together. Like two sides of a coin. We must love, we must forgive. Even when it is hard, we must forgive one another if we are to be followers of Jesus. This is God's way. Before we read our lesson today, I have an important story to tell you. Do you think a friend of Jesus would ever do anything to hurt Him? [Allow response.] Listen to this story.

Before He was crucified, Jesus was arrested. Peter and the other disciples saw it happen. They were afraid that they would be arrested. Jesus was taken away. Peter followed from a distance.

A woman saw Peter. "Didn't I see you with Jesus?" she asked.

"No," said Peter. Another woman asked the same question. Peter said a second time, "No."

The crowd of people came up to Peter and said, "You are a friend of Jesus" "No!" said Peter a third time. "I do not even know the man." At that moment a rooster crowed.

When Peter heard the rooster, he cried. He could not believe he had lied three times. He wondered if Jesus could ever forgive him.

After Jesus died and rose, Peter got his answers. Jesus came up to Peter walking on the beach. "Do you love me?" he asked.

Peter said, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus asked the same question three times. Peter said, "Yes" three times.

Jesus forgave Peter. Jesus was going to heaven soon to be with the His Father. He asked Peter to be in charge of His followers. Peter knew he was forgiven. Peter led the followers of Jesus. Let's read our lesson.

We Learn to Forgive

God created us to love.
God does not want us to hurt others or to be hurt.



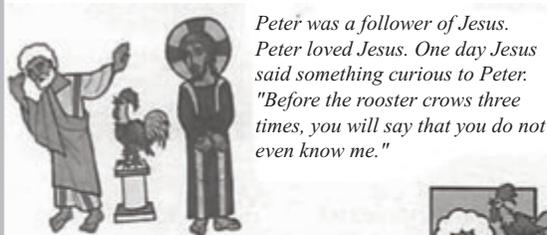
When a friend does not share, we feel hurt.
When someone hits us, we hurt.
When someone we love hurts us, we are sad.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.

Let's look at the photograph. What do you think is happening? (The boy is pretending not to know the girl.) Has that ever happened to you? Let's read the lesson.

When someone we love hurts us, we are sad.
What do you feel when someone hurts you?
[Allow responses.]

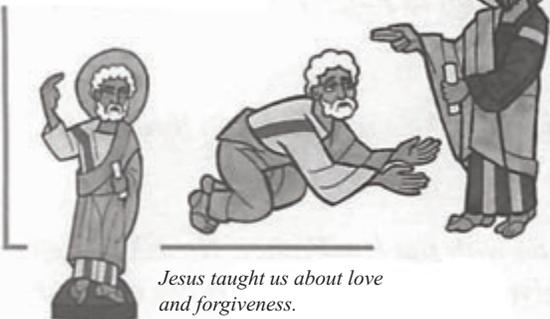


*Peter was a follower of Jesus.
Peter loved Jesus. One day Jesus said something curious to Peter.
"Before the rooster crows three times, you will say that you do not even know me."*

*After Jesus died and rose. He found Peter.
Jesus forgave Peter. He made Peter the leader of His followers*



*What Jesus said happened. Peter cried.
He could not believe what he had done.*



*Jesus taught us about love and forgiveness.
They go together.*

"... you will say that you do not even know me."

What did Jesus tell Peter? Each of you has a good friend. What are the names of your good friends? [Allow each child to respond, and after they say the name, ask] "How would you feel if friend's name) said to your classmates, "I don 't know (child's name)?" That's what Jesus said Peter was going to do.

He made Peter the leader of His followers.

How do you think Peter felt when Jesus forgave Him?

They go together.

What goes together? (Love and forgiveness) If we want to be a follower of Jesus, we must forgive those who have hurt us.

We love our parents and we say "I forgive you."

*What do we say when our parents apologize to us?
(I forgive you.)*

We love our brothers and sisters and friends. We say "I forgive you."

*What do we say when our parents apologize to us?
(I forgive you.)*

When we love and forgive, we are following God's way.

It might be hard to learn to forgive. Again, you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you. You can pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, help me to forgive those who have hurt me." The Holy Spirit will touch your heart and help you to forgive.

Let's review: *Jesus taught us to love and forgive; and then He showed us that even when we are hurt badly, we can still forgive. Who did Jesus forgive? (Peter) When someone has hurt us, what do we say? (I forgive you.)*

Activity Tracks

Basic 1: Jesus taught us to ...
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Jesus taught us to love and forgive. Today we learned that Jesus showed us how to forgive by forgiving Peter. Let's see if we can follow the directions and complete this worksheet

Sometimes parents ask their children for forgiveness. We love our parents and we say "I forgive you."



Sometimes a brother or sister or friend asks for forgiveness. We love our brothers and sisters and friends. We say "I forgive you."

We learn to forgive the mistakes of other people.



When we love and forgive, we are following God's way.

Jesus showed us how to forgive. We do as Jesus did. We forgive those who hurt us.

Jesus taught us to . . .

With a bright crayon or marker color the spaces that have a dot in them. Color the other spaces brown. What do the words spell?



Down = Forgive
Across = Love

Today's story shows us that Jesus not only talked about forgiveness but practiced it. Jesus forgave Peter. Jesus wants us to forgive those who hurt us. Let's see how well you remember the story. [You may need to read the story blocks aloud for the students.]

Craft: Peter's Tears

Materials: "Peter's Tears" worksheet, black construction paper, scissors, glue, glitter

Today we learned that Jesus not only talked about forgiveness but practiced it. Jesus forgave Peter. Jesus wants us to forgive those who hurt us. Peter was sorry for having denied Jesus. The story tells us "he wept bitterly." To help us remember the story, we have a craft to make that shows Peter's tears. First, you can color Peter. Then we will cut out the picture, paste it onto black construction paper, and put glue drops where the tears would be. [Glitter is optional.]



Group: Enact "Jesus Forgives Peter"

[If you have good readers in your class, you may choose to do this as a Reader Theatre. Pass out copies of the story and assign parts to be read aloud.] *The story we read today is a great one for acting out. Let's see if we can assign some parts to people, and I'll be the director. We need Peter, a few disciples, Jesus, soldiers, two women, a crowd, and a rooster. Peter and the disciples and Jesus stand to my left. The soldiers, girls, crowd and rooster stand to my right. When the soldiers come to arrest Jesus, they will take Him back to the crowd area.* [Read the story below, and cue the children when to enter and exit. After you say a speaking part, let the child repeat it after you.]

Before He was crucified, Jesus was arrested. Peter and the other disciples saw it happen. They were afraid that they would be arrested. Jesus was taken away. Peter followed.

*A woman saw Peter.
(Woman 1) "Didn't I see you with Jesus?"*

(Peter) "No."

Lesson 15 Basic 2
"Jesus Forgives Peter"

Jesus Forgives Peter

The pictures are in the wrong order. In the boxes by each picture, place a number 1, 2 or 3 to put them in order. Use the story to help fill in the caption blanks.



Jesus f o r g a v e Peter. 2



A r o o s t e r c r o w d. 1



He made Peter the leader of the d i s c i p l e s. 3

Jesus was taken away. Peter followed. "Didn't I see you with Jesus?"
"No."
Another girl approached Peter. "Didn't I see you with Jesus?"
"No."
The crowd of people came up to Peter and said, "You are a friend of Jesus."
"No! I do not even know the man," Peter said.
At that moment a rooster crowed. When Peter heard the rooster, he cried.

After Jesus died and rose, He came up to Peter walking on the beach. "Do you love me?" Jesus asked. "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
"Do you love me?" Jesus asked again.
"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
"Do you love me?" Jesus asked. "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
Jesus forgave Peter.

Jesus made Peter the leader of the disciples.

Another woman approached Peter.

(Woman 2) "Didn't I see you with Jesus?"

(Peter) "No."

The crowd of people came up to Peter.

(Crowd) "You are a friend of Jesus."

(Peter) "No! I do not even know the man."

At that moment a rooster crowed.

(Rooster) Crow.

When Peter heard the rooster, he cried. He could not believe he had lied three times.

He wondered if Jesus could ever forgive him.

[Stage is cleared except for Jesus and Peter]

After Jesus died and rose, Peter got his answer. Jesus came up to Peter walking on the beach.

(Jesus) "Do you love Me?"

(Peter) "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You."

(Jesus) "Do you love Me?"

(Peter) "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You."

(Jesus) "Do you love Me?"

(Peter) "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You."

Jesus forgave Peter. Jesus was going to heaven soon to be with the Father. He asked Peter to be in charge of His followers. Peter knew he was forgiven. Peter led the followers of Jesus.

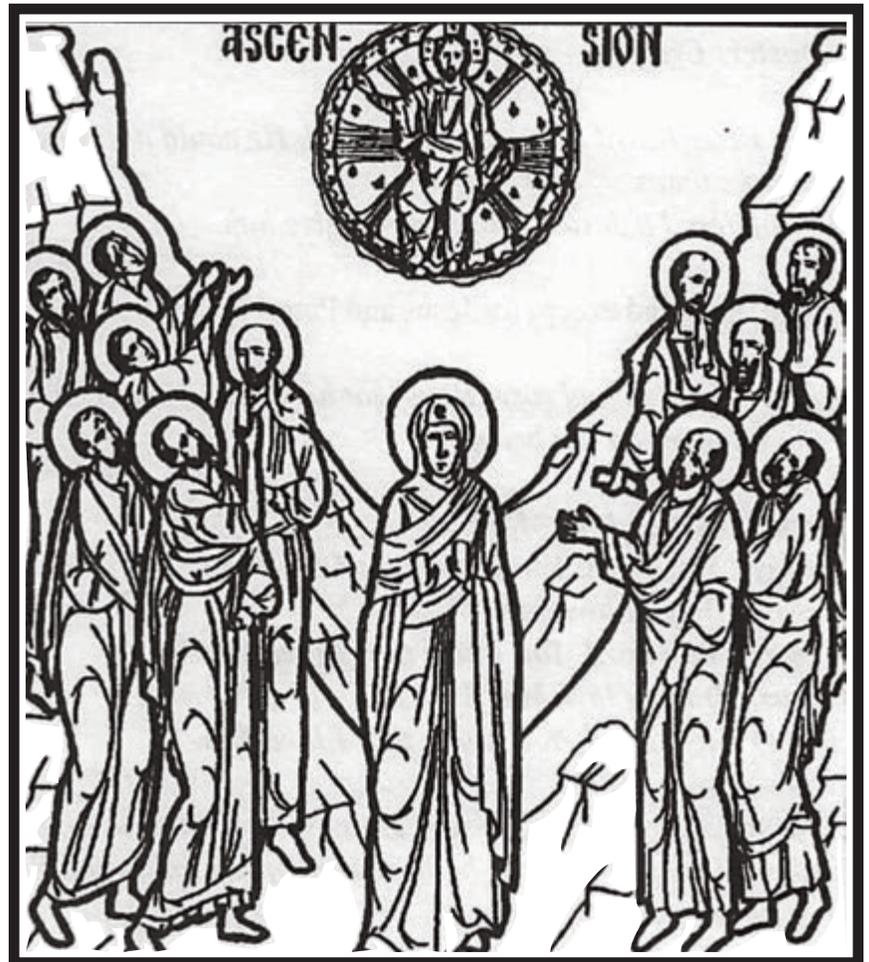
Closing

We've learned some very important lessons in this unit about love and forgiveness. We are to love and we are to ask for forgiveness when we've sinned. We are also to forgive those who have hurt us. Let's pray to the Holy Trinity now and think about all we've learned.

God bless you. Have a good week!



forgive



disciples

Jesus Forgives Peter

The pictures are in the wrong order. In the boxes by each picture, place a number 1,2 or 3 to put them in order. Use the story to help fill in the caption blanks.



Jesus _____ Peter

Jesus was taken away. Peter followed. "Didn't I see you with Jesus? "

"No. "

Another girl approached Peter.

"Didn't I see you with Jesus? "

"No. "

The crowd of people came up to Peter and said, "You are a friend of Jesus."

"No! I do not even know the man," Peter said.

At that moment a rooster crowed. When Peter heard the rooster, he cried.



A r _____
crowed

After Jesus died and rose, He came up to Peter walking on the beach.

"Do you love me? " Jesus asked.

"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

"Do you love me? " Jesus asked again.

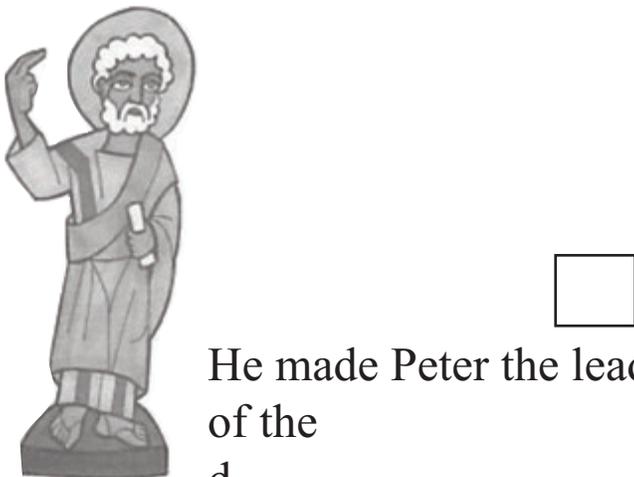
"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

"Do you love me? " Jesus asked.

"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. "

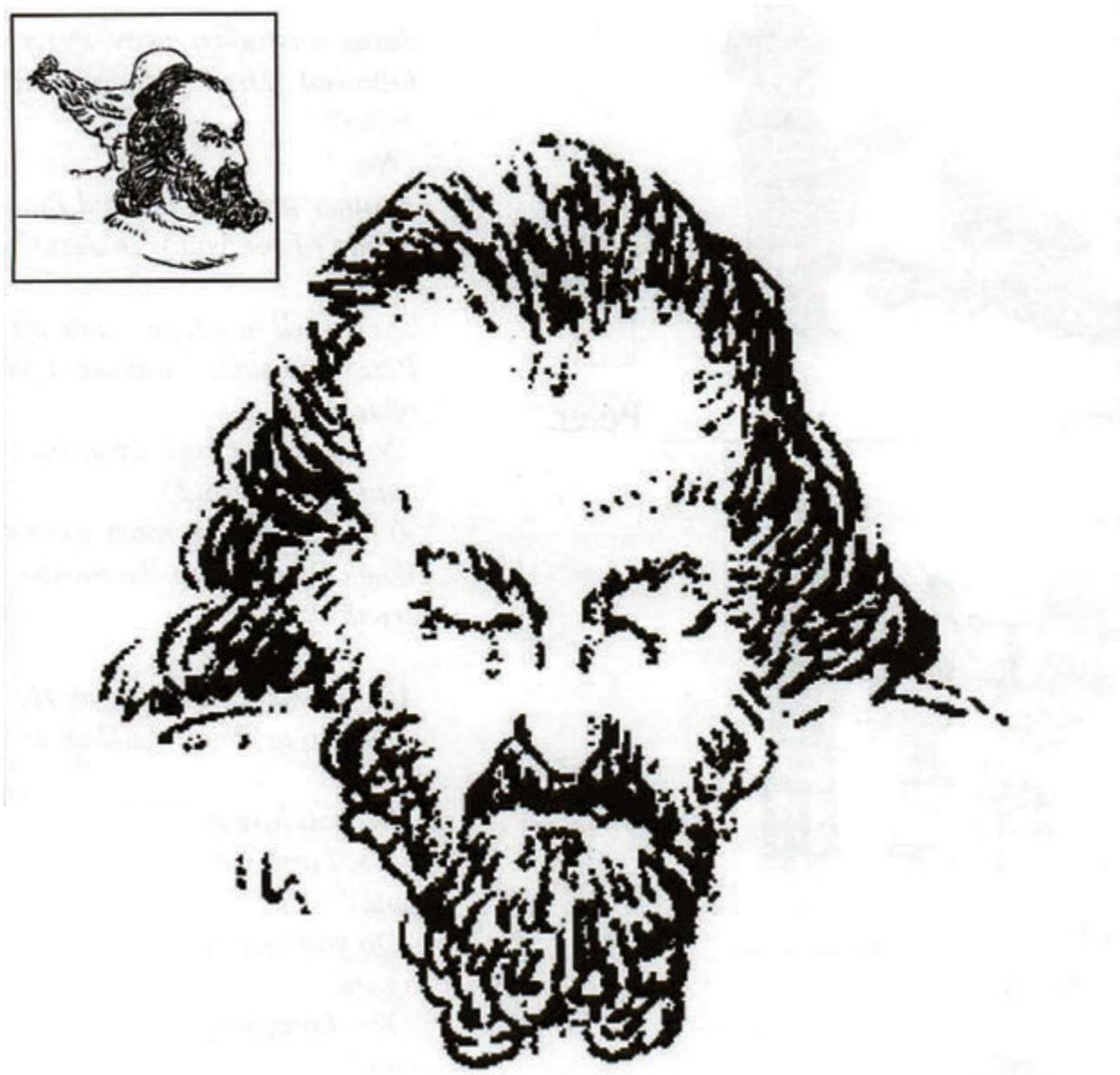
Jesus forgave Peter.

Jesus made Peter the leader of the disciples.



He made Peter the leader
of the
d _____.

Peter Cried



Unit 4 Review

Learning to Love and Forgive

1. How should we treat each other?
(Lesson 12: We are to treat each other with love.)

2. What is the difference between "by accident" and "on purpose"?
(Lesson 13: "By accident" means you didn't mean to hurt someone. "On purpose " means you tried to hurt someone.)

3. What should we say when we have hurt someone?
(Lesson 13: We should say "I'm sorry.")

4. When we have sinned, who will always forgive us?
(Lesson 14: God will always forgive us.)

5. What should we say when someone has hurt us?
(Lesson 15: We should say "I forgive you.")