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The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Introducing children to biblical stories can be both a rewarding and challenging endeavor. Teaching kids about Peter denying Jesus is particularly significant as it offers vital lessons on faith, forgiveness, and human vulnerability. Using engaging activities ensures that young learners not only understand the narrative but also internalize its deeper meanings. Through interactive methods, we can help children relate to Peter's experience in ways that resonate with their own lives. The Story of Peter Denying Jesus The narrative of Peter denying Jesus unfolds during one of the most intense moments in the New Testament. As Jesus is arrested and taken to the high priest's courtyard, Peter follows at a distance, trying to stay close without drawing attention to himself. The tension is palpable as Peter, a devoted disciple, finds himself in a precarious situation where his loyalty is put to the test. As Peter warms himself by the fire, a servant girl recognizes him and accuses him of being with Jesus. Fearful of the repercussions, Peter denies knowing Jesus, not once, but three times. Each denial is more emphatic than the last, culminating in Peter swearing that he does not know the man. The rooster crows, and Peter remembers Jesus' prediction that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. Overwhelmed with guilt and sorrow, Peter weeps bitterly, realizing the gravity of his actions. This story is not just about Peter's failure but also about the profound themes of repentance and forgiveness. Peter's denial is a moment of human weakness, but it also sets the stage for his redemption. After Jesus' resurrection, He appears to Peter and asks him three times if he loves Him, mirroring the three denials. This act of reconciliation underscores the message that forgiveness is always within reach, no matter the depth of one's mistakes. Discussion Questions Engaging children with thoughtful questions helps deepen their understanding of the narrative while encouraging them to reflect on the broader themes. Start by asking what emotions they think Peter experienced throughout this story. This opens the door for kids to connect with Peter on a personal level, recognizing that even someone close to Jesus faced moments of fear and weakness. Next, explore the concept of loyalty by questioning what it means to be loyal to someone. This can lead to discussions about times when the children themselves may have struggled to stand by a friend or family member, helping them see the story's relevance to their own lives. By relating Peter's actions to their experiences, they can better grasp the complex nature of human relationships and the challenges of staying true to one's commitments. Encourage them to think about the importance of forgiveness by asking how they believe Peter felt after he denied Jesus and what it means to be forgiven. This can be an opportunity to discuss the feelings of guilt and relief that come with making mistakes and seeking forgiveness. It also provides a chance to emphasize that everyone makes errors, but redemption is always possible. Role-Playing Activities Engaging children through role-playing activities can transform the learning experience into a dynamic and memorable event. By stepping into the shoes of the characters, kids can gain a deeper understanding of the emotions and decisions within the story. Begin by setting the scene with simple props and costumes—perhaps a robe for Peter and a hat for the servant girl. This helps create a tangible connection to the narrative and makes the role-playing more immersive. Once the stage is set, invite the children to act out different parts of the story. Encourage them to express what they think each character might be feeling or thinking at various moments. For instance, they might portray Peter's hesitation and fear or the curiosity and insistence of the servant girl. This exploration can lead to a richer appreciation of the story's complexities and the motivations behind each character's actions. To further deepen the engagement, introduce scenarios where children can improvise alternative endings or reactions. What if Peter had responded differently? How might the story change if another disciple had been present? These "what if" scenarios can stimulate critical thinking and help kids explore the consequences of different choices. It also allows them to practice empathy by considering how they might feel in similar situations. Craft Ideas Craft projects serve as an excellent medium for children to engage with biblical stories creatively. They provide a hands-on approach that can make the lessons more tangible and memorable. One idea is to create a "Rooster Reminder" craft, symbolizing the moment Peter remembered his denials. Using construction paper, pipe cleaners, and markers, children can fashion their own roosters. This activity not only reinforces the story but also serves as a visual reminder of personal growth and forgiveness. Another engaging craft involves making "Forgiveness Bracelets." Each bead on the bracelet can represent a different aspect of the story or a personal commitment to forgive and seek forgiveness. For example, a red bead could symbolize the moment of Peter's denial, while a white bead could signify the purity of forgiveness. As children string the beads together, they can discuss the meanings behind each one, deepening their understanding of the themes involved. In this activity the children will trace their feet, decorate them, and transform them into puppets to reenact the scene where Peter denies Jesus. This hands-on craft will help them understand Peter's struggle and remind us of the importance of staying true to our faith. This idea is part of a complete Sunday school lesson on the Easter Bible story in Luke 22: 39 – 71, on the disciples who fall asleep and Peter who disowns Jesus three times. Ideal for churches, schools and homeschooling Access to more than 2000 ideas and lessons 2 years worth of Sunday school lessons Bible stories, games, crafts, experiments, videos, object lessons and much more \$1.45 per week - less than a cup of coffee per week One of Jesus' closest disciples denies Him right at the worst time. Sometimes we get tempted to deny Jesus when our reputation is on the line. Listen closely and remember that Jesus is above all. "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." Matthew 26:34A printable PDF digital download Click here for the Craft Tutorial and Story video Peter is a well-known disciple of Christ in the Bible. I love the Peter Bible story because Peter is passionate about following Jesus, but his imperfections also shine through in the Bible stories about him. Mostly, I love the transformation that Jesus does in Peter because it reminds me that when we meet and follow Jesus, he changes us! Here are the "adorable" Peter Bible crafts and fun games we used during this Peter Bible Story unit from my Sunday School curriculum. The first time we meet Peter in the Bible, he and his brother Andrew are fishing in a boat as professional fishermen. Jesus asks them to leave their job behind and follow him to become fishers of men instead! We play "Let's Go Fishin'" as one of our stations during this Peter Bible unit, and play it all together after this lesson! We take turns answering questions about the story. If they answer the question correctly, they get to go fishin'! After that first lesson, we also make a "fishers of men" craft! I copy fish on bright colors of paper and the kids "bubble cut" around the fish and write people they can share the gospel with. For young kinders, you can write the words and have them copy them. Older kinders can try to write them on their own. I drew the lines on the sandwich-sized plastic bag beforehand, but your kids could do that if you wish. Then, just glue the bag to the fishnet handle. I used the cardstock templates from the unit, but you could also use a dowel rod or a stick if you wanted! At Peter's lowest point, he denied that he followed Jesus three times. And just as Jesus said would happen, a rooster crowed at that very moment! After this lesson, we made this adorable rooster. We cut out the templates from the unit, added googly eyes and 4 colorful feathers for his tail. This one is super easy to also put up at a creation station if you are in a Christian classroom and have students look at your example and create it as it is very easy to do independently. We had so much fun putting him together and reviewing the lesson together! Even though Peter denied Jesus, he was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and he became the rock that Jesus built the Christian church on...he became the first preacher of the Christian church. After this lesson, where Jesus tells Peter his name means rock and he is the rock he will build his church on, we did painted rocks! You can bring rocks or if you have time and a good spot, you can go for a walk looking for a rock. Let the kids paint the rocks how they choose. We used q-tips as easy throw away paint brushes and they worked great! Once the rocks dry, we used a sharpie to write, "Jesus loves you" on it. Then, we found the perfect place to put our painted rock for others to find. It was a neat way to share the gospel with others! You can also just write each child's name on the rock as a reminder for them to keep and show that Jesus wants to use all of us to build his church. You can find the directions, materials, and templates for these crafts, games and much more as part of my Sunday School curriculum in this 10 week Peter Bible story unit! In this activity the children will trace their feet, decorate them, and transform them into puppets to reenact the scene where Peter denies Jesus. This hands-on craft will help them understand Peter's struggle and remind us of the importance of staying true to our faith. This idea is part of a complete Sunday school lesson on the Easter Bible story in Luke 22: 39 – 71, on the disciples who fall asleep and Peter who disowns Jesus three times. Ideal for churches, schools and homeschooling Access to more than 2000 ideas and lessons 2 years worth of Sunday school lessons Bible stories, games, crafts, experiments, videos, object lessons and much more \$1.45 per week - less than a cup of coffee per week BIG IDEA: I HAVE SINNED AIM: The aim of the 'I Have Sinned' Childrens Lesson on Peters Denial is to help children see that we have all sinned - therefore we are all in need of a Savior! SONG IDEAS: 1. 'Mighty to Save' 2. 'Blessed by Your Name' by Capitol Kids Worship 3. 'Wake' by Young and Free 4. 'Never Too Far Gone' by Jordan Feliz GAME IDEAS: 1. Alphabetti Spaghetti. Children compete to create several words out of the letters in a bowl of alphabet soup - one bowl each. They spell the words on a plate next to their bowl. 2. Blind Feeders. Children get into partners. One partner is blindfolded and must put their arms under the arm pits of their partner to feed them. You could try feeding with a banana or make it more difficult with a meal such as cereal or soup. 3. Target Practice. Children could fire arrows at a target and see who can score the most points. Alternatively use a nerf gun and chest targets. Application: to sin or to do wrong means to miss the mark of perfection. 4. Tin Can Alley. Children compete to knock over as many cans as possible in a defined time. Application: Just as the cans were knocked over Jesus defeats sin. If you have more space you could also put an obstacle course together where children must try to hit the mark tires or hoops to hop or jump through, bean bags to throw. SET the Scene: Read Luke 22:54-62. Peter has been a friend and follower of Jesus for the three years that Jesus has been teaching and performing miracles. He is impulsive and makes big promises to Jesus. He promised that he would not leave or deny Jesus. Yet Jesus had told him at the last supper that he would deny him three times before the cockerel crowed. VIDEO IDEAS: 1. Jesus Forgives Peter' by Saddleback Kids (the whole story) 2. Peter Denies Jesus' by LifeTV (includes restoration) SPOT the Simple Meaning: 1. X = I HAVE SINNED - I'VE GOT IT WRONG You will need a big sheet of paper with some maths questions on them and a marker. Show a Dude Perfect clip off YouTube. You could have your own basketball hoop and ball (mini or full size) ready to give the children a try at making the perfect shot. Alternatively you could put your own quiz together and see who can get the most right answers, however, this may backfire if a child gets all the answers right so you may want to add some ridiculously difficult questions! Say: The 2nd point, the 'X' sign on the 4 points wristbands/tshirts or signs means "I Have sinned" or "I've Got it Wrong." Don't you just hate it when you get something wrong in school? Perhaps you had some homework that you tried really hard at but you just didn't understand. Maybe you did something wrong and the headmaster told you off or told you you couldn't have playtime (recess). That just feels like the worst! We're not the only ones who have got it wrong. Peter got himself into a mess when he did something wrong. Rather than stick with his friend, Peter turned on Jesus. Peter told others that he didn't even know who Jesus was! Peter was not a good friend at all - he got it wrong - he sinned. Sin is anything that we do that is selfish and goes against others and God. Sin is spelled S-I-N because it has 'I' in the middle - it's all about me! Jesus never acted selfishly. Jesus was and is perfect in every way. He never makes a mistake or makes a mess of things - he never does anything wrong. Just as Dude Perfect was able to get the ball in the hoop every time - a perfect shot - Jesus' every decision was perfect. 2. SIN - MY WRONGS - SEPARATE ME FROM GOD Have a bottle with both oil and water inside. [Make sure you keep it with you at all times for safety purposes] Say: God is perfect and I am not. Being perfect means to never ever do wrong. When I do wrong it separates me from God because sin and perfection don't mix. [Show the bottle to the children] Can you see this bottle? What is different about what is inside it? That's right, the water and the oil inside don't mix, they stay separated. Just like sin and perfection, they don't mix. The thing is, that God didn't want us to be forever separated from Him. He wants us to know Him and to be His friend. 3. JESUS MAKES MY WRONGS RIGHT Use an iPad sketch app (if using a screen) or a chalkboard or wipeboard to write or draw some of the wrong things that Peter did as you speak. Then as you speak about Jesus forgiving Peter wipe each thing away. (use an eraser tool if using an app). Say: You know, Jesus lived an absolutely perfect life. He never did anything wrong when he lived on the earth or ever. He died and rose again so that I can be forgiven and I can run to God whenever I do wrong. So I I don't have to run away or turn my face from Him - I can run to Him and ask for His forgiveness. The coolest thing about the life of Peter is that although he did wrong his story did not end there. Jesus found him. After Jesus died and rose again he went back to find Peter. He found Peter on the beach. [Read John 21] Jesus asked Peter three times. "Do you love me?" This must have hurt Peter's feelings - he really loved Jesus, his friend. Yet he said "yes" each time. Peter said "you know I love you" as Jesus did know that Peter loved his friend. So why did Jesus ask Peter this same question three times? Jesus asked Peter so that he could show Peter that he was forgiven. He asked Peter so that Peter could stand strong three times, where he once had stood weakly three times and denied him. Jesus restored Peter. That means that he gave him back his place and reminded him of who he really was. Peter was Jesus' disciple and friend and he was going to help build his church and see many come to know Christ. Jesus put Peter's wrongs right and he can also put our wrongs right. He is God and He can forgive everything we have ever thought, said or done wrong. SEARCH the Scriptures: SIN IS MESSY! Hide the sin bible verses in chocolate custard and add some gummy candy worms. Can the children find the bible verses with their fingers in the chocolate mix? If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9. All people have sinned and are not good enough for God's glory. People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23-24. Guide my steps as you promised. Don't let any sin control me. Psalm 119:133. God, be merciful to me because you are loving. Because you are always ready to be merciful, wipe out all my wrongs. Wash away all my guilt and make me clean again. Psalm 51:1-2. Yes, if you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will also forgive you for the things you do wrong. Matthew 6:14. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: 1. Why do you think sin is messy? Do you think it is fun or not? 2. How does it feel when you do something wrong? 3. How does it feel to know God forgives? SENSE How You Feel: Pick one of the questions below and encourage the children to do one of the activities below as they think about the question. How does it feel to do wrong? How does it feel to know God forgives? How would you feel if you were Peter and Jesus forgave you? Activities: 1. Cockerel craft by CraftingtheWordofGod 2. Rooster feather craft 3. Rooster handprint craft - simply take the idea from the activity sheet 4. Cockerel paper bag craft 5. Rooster paper plate craft SEEK God: You could play Matthew West's 'Forgiveness' in the background during the following activities. Say: Is there anything that you want to ask God to forgive you from today? The bible says that when we ask Him to forgive, He also forgives! How cool is that?! He casts it into the sea of forgetfulness - that means He never reminds us of it again. If we remember it, we should remember that God has forgiven us and we don't need to keep reminding ourselves of the wrong we have done. Activities: 1. Shred It Away: Have children write or draw their wrong on paper and then watch it get shredded in a shredder (with adult supervision) 2. Speak it Out: If you don't have much time to spare, why not just ask the kids to whisper or speak out the things to God that they would like to be forgiven of? 3. Wiped Away: Encourage children to write or draw their sin on a mini chalkboard or wipeboard and then watch it disappear as they pray and wipe it away. 4. Washed Away: Encourage children to put their hands in soil to remind them of their sin and then to wash it off straight away to show that God has forgiven them. 5. All Gone: Have children draw or write their sin in a container of sand and then wipe it away until it is all gone. Remind the children that it is because God loves them that they can come to Him. They never have to hide or run away. They can run to Him. Click here for the 'I Have Sinned' PowerPoint image Finding interactive and appropriate ways to teach young children about Peter's denial of Jesus can be difficult to find. Here are a few rooster activity ideas that will get children involved in a lesson about when Peter denies Jesus (Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75; Mark 14:26-31, 66-72; Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27). If you are looking for more activities for teaching the story of Peter, check out our Peter Black Light Story! Bible Fun For Kids ABC's of Jesus' Life: R is for Rooster Peter Denied Jesus and the Rooster Crowed! These lessons can be used without the alphabet theme. Just consider them an update with new ideas and printables to teach the Life of Jesus! loading..