



THE FRIEND WHO FORGIVES

LESSON PLAN

2-4
year-olds

Session Summary: God's word tells us that Peter didn't treat Jesus as a friend should. But Jesus is the perfect friend who forgave Peter. Jesus forgives all his friends.

Pray

Let's talk to God before we read the story:

Father God, please teach us what makes Jesus the very best friend. Amen.

Listen*

(Read the story from *The Friend Who Forgives*.)

Game and Thinking

Cut out a few small fish from paper/lightweight card. Make paddles out of, for instance, rolled up newspaper or a table-tennis bat or a hand-held fan etc. Set up start and finish points for a race in which the children have to waft their fish over the line first to win. Alternatively, set up a hula hoop or similar into which the children have to, like fishermen, gather their fish by wafting them using the home-made paddles.

Did Peter say that Jesus wasn't his friend?

Did Jesus forgive Peter for not being a good friend?

Did Jesus make Peter a forgiven fisher of men?

Listen to God from the Bible

This is part of Exodus 34 verse 7:

"The Lord forgives people for wrong and sin and turning against him." (ICB)

Pray

Let's talk to God again now:

Lord Jesus, you are a loving and forgiving friend. Wow! Thank you for forgiving Peter. Thank you for forgiving all your people. Amen

Craft Idea

Decorate the paper fish you made for the game. Fingerprint paint scales would be fun!

See ideas at the end of the session below for things to do "In the Week".



* *The Friend Who Forgives* by Dan DeWitt/Catalina Echeverri is available from Christian retailers and at thegoodbook.com (US) / thegoodbook.co.uk (UK).

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OTHER CRAFT/ACTIVITY IDEAS

Using minimal resources... Decorate the paper fish you made for the game and write your memory verse on to remind you that Peter was a forgiven fisher of men.

Using things you may have around...

- you'll need cane/bamboo/wooden skewer/stick, string, paper, glue or tape: make more paper fish or use some from the game. Decorate and then write truths or key words or verses from today's session on the fish and attach them to the stick with string to make a fishing rod.
- you'll need a magnetic fishing or hook-a-duck game: write or stick some of the key words/ideas from the passage onto the items to be fished/hooked and play the game. Each time a child successfully fishes an item, they could explain what they learnt about that key word/idea.
- you'll need card, stickers, pen: make a cross shape from the card and tack it up somewhere. Invite the children to write on the stickers ways they know they have not loved God or other people (be ready to give your own examples) and have everyone stick their stickers on to the cross. Read 1 John 1 v 8-9 and as you do take the cross and turn it over so that the sins are hidden. Leave it up as a visual reminder of the truths from the session.

More of a project... There are lots of online tutorials/videos featuring an experiment to illustrate the effect of repentance using, for instance, food colouring to represent sin and bleach to 'wash' that sin away upon repentance. Either look up a video to watch together or, if appropriate, source the materials to have a go yourself.

If you have a printer: enjoy the art and activity sheets from the *The Friend Who Forgives* on the next two pages.

IN THE WEEK

Replay the fish race game. Can the children retell Peter's story of forgiveness?

Learn a memory verse. As a family, learn this verse over the course of the week. You could write up the memory verse somewhere and cover words with post-it notes or write out the initial letters only, or try setting it to a familiar tune for instance as you learn it...

"God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins." (1 John 1 v 9, NIRV)

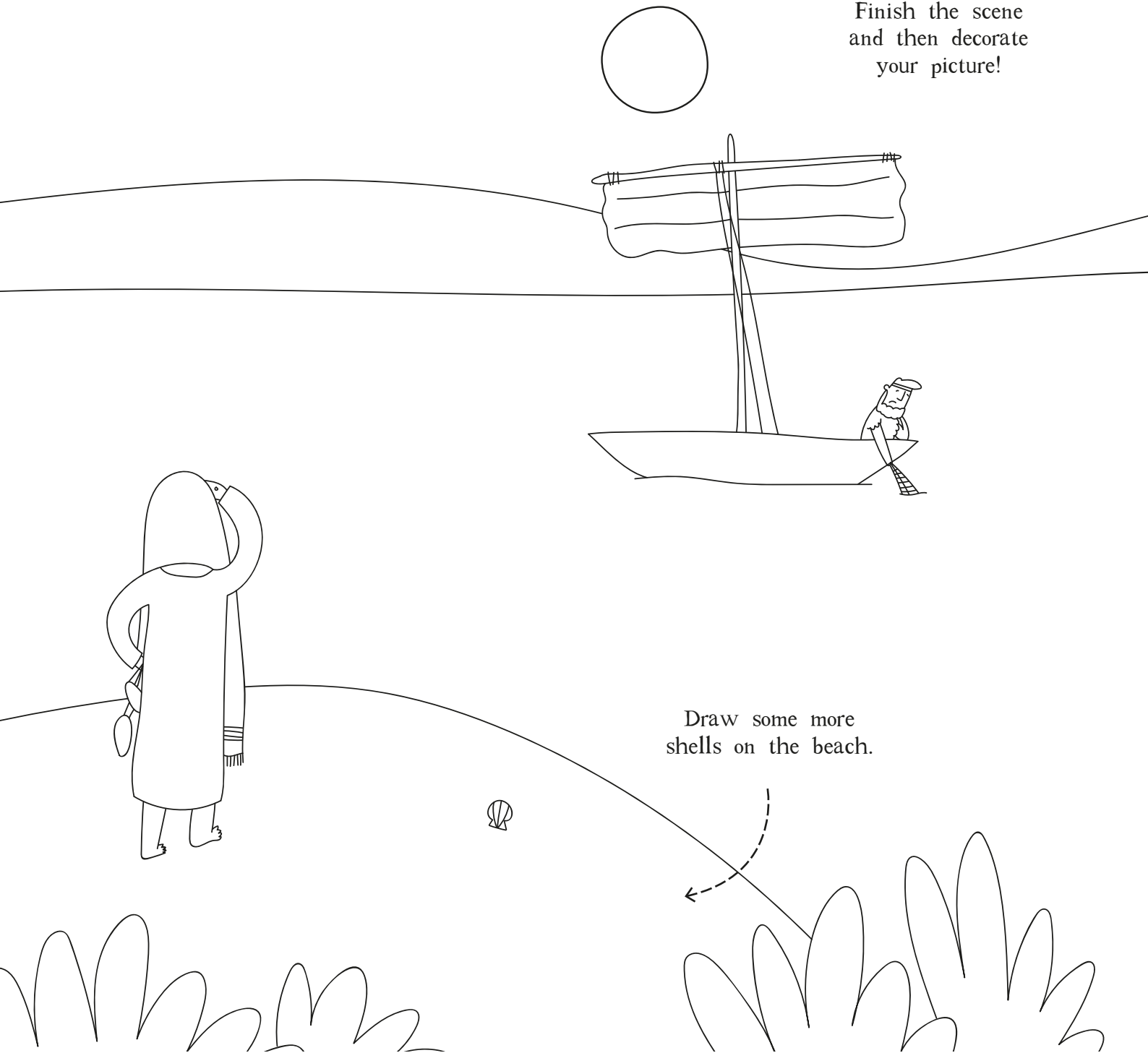
Enjoy singing about confessing our sins and being forgiven. A song about acknowledging our sin: "Tell it to Jesus" (*Slugs & Bugs Under Where?*); Psalm 32 v 1-5 set to music: "You forgave me" (*Sing the Bible with Slugs & Bugs vol.2*); hymns to enjoy as a family: "His mercy is more," "Before the throne of God above," "What a friend we have in Jesus"; a hip-hop song to enjoy: "Forgiveness" by TobyMac feat. LeCrae (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfkhqpl81NA>)



Peter didn't stay sad, because Jesus didn't stay dead.

Three days later was the first Easter Sunday, when Jesus came back to life to offer people forgiveness.

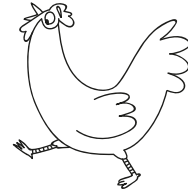
Finish the scene and then decorate your picture!



Taken from *The Friend Who Forgives Art and Activity Book*, available from Christian retailers and at www.thegoodbook.com (US) or www.thegoodbook.co.uk (UK).

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Wordsearch



r	k	i	g	b	h	s	a	g	e	s	c	u	e	u
e	e	c	u	r	l	y	t	r	i	a	e	s	r	y
m	k	i	c	i	f	t	r	h	b	r	r	o	w	d
e	w	r	o	o	s	t	e	r	o	k	l	l	n	v
m	h	e	l	e	u	c	s	l	s	a	e	d	r	t
b	f	o	i	i	a	r	i	a	d	a	l	i	e	b
t	l	i	d	n	g	t	t	p	o	r	d	e	m	k
n	p	i	r	i	s	h	i	y	l	y	s	r	e	a
l	k	l	u	e	s	p	t	l	a	s	i	s	m	w
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z	j	r	j	n	r	u	i	r	e	e	d	m	e	o
s	a	o	p	a	p	b	c	p	r	w	a	s	r	w
e	f	r	d	a	r	k	s	g	o	t	i	c	i	a
g	a	t	e	t	h	e	r	r	i	e	f	g	i	r
s	f	a	i	t	h	a	c	h	n	n	g	s	f	m

rooster

soldiers

girl

crow

dark

gate

courtyard

fire

remember

arrest

warm

sad



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