

Activity I

Craft

Have the kids color their picture of Jesus and the woman. While they color, talk to them about how Jesus came to earth to save us from our death because of our sin and how this woman could have been stoned to death. Jesus knew that the men were trying to trick Him and get Him into trouble. Instead of being harsh to them and yelling at them or letting them throw stones at the woman, Jesus bent down and wrote in the dirt and then asked them if any of them were without sin. Next, have the kids put glue (using glue sticks or white glue and paintbrushes) where the woman is sitting. Then have them use a cup of dirt and sprinkle the dirt onto their paper over the glue so that the extra dirt falls into a large pan.

Supplies: Jesus with the woman picture, large pan, sand, glue sticks/white glue, paintbrushes (if white glue is used), crayons

Gentleness L3

Activity 2

Don't Throw Stones

Ask a volunteer to pretend that he/she was caught committing a terrible sin. Have him/her stand in the middle of the room. Also put the trashcan with a sign saying "Jesus Can" in the middle of the room. Give each child a blank sheet of paper.

Tell the class: In Jesus' day, when people were caught committing certain crimes, the punishment may have been to get "stoned to death" by the people living in the village. "Should we stone this criminal for his/her sin?"

If the children shout "yes!" Remind them of Jesus' gentleness and tell them to take a minute and think about their sin. Tell them that if they have sinned (told a lie, argued with their parents, been disobedient, etc) they can take time to write or draw about their sin and then crumble their paper into a ball. If they say they have not sinned and want to throw the ball at the volunteer remind them that **in the story Jesus said 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone.'** Who is without sin in this class? (Make sure the children understand that they cannot throw the paper because they have sinned.) That's right, we have all sinned. Even Jesus said that 'everyone has sinned, and falls short of the glory of God'. Before we judge someone else for doing wrong, we need to look at our own lives and remember that we too have sinned. When we remember that Jesus died for us and that He is gentle to forgive, it helps us to be gentle with other people when they make wrong choices. Now tell them to take their crumbled piece of paper with their sin and explain that they can ask Jesus for forgiveness and throw the ball in the "Jesus Can" bucket. Remind them that "Jesus can" forgive them for the times they disobey Him. That is why He chose to die on the cross for us - so we can be forgiven!

Supplies: basket with "Jesus Can" sign, paper
Gentleness L3

Activity 3

Writings in the Dirt

Have the kids draw and write in the dirt that's in the pie/roasting pans. Ask them to think about what Jesus may have been writing on the ground. Explain that we still don't know for sure what Jesus wrote, but it may have been the laws known as the Ten Commandments. God wrote with his finger two times in the Old Testament and both times it was to write the law. Though we do not know for sure what Jesus wrote; we do know that we have all sinned just like the men who brought the woman to Him.

Supplies: 4 pie plates or roasting pans, dirt, wipes, hand sanitizer
Gentleness L3

Activity 4

Gentleness Toss

Give each child a beanbag. Have the kids take turns and decide whether the statements below are examples of gentleness or sins that need forgiveness. Have them toss the beanbag into either the basket labeled "Gentleness" or "Jesus Can."

You push another child out of line so you can be first.
You let a child go first in a game.
You help your younger brother or sister when he/she falls down.
You tell your mom you cleaned your room when you didn't.
You invite someone to play with you and your other friends.
You do not follow the rules of a game so you can win.
You take something that belongs to someone else.
You break your friend's toy and buy her a new one to say you're sorry.
A child is being mean to your friend and you politely ask him to stop.
You sit and rub your friend's back when she is crying or upset.
You tattle on someone just so he gets in trouble.
Your teacher asks you to do something and you tell her "NO!"

Supplies: "Gentleness" basket, "Jesus Can" basket, 12 beanbags
Gentleness L3