



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 69 SKIT

Principle: Faith in Christ covers the worst of sinners.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and the Criminals on the Cross

Scripture Reference: Luke 23:32-43



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Luke 23:32-43. As

you read, focus on the principle that faith in Christ covers the worst of sinners. Jesus is crucified on the cross with two other criminals. Pay close attention to the criminals' responses to Jesus; we see the different responses the cross of Christ would have on our world. One of the criminals joined in the crowd in mocking Jesus, his heart hard with unbelief. The other criminal recognized that he deserved to be hanging on that cross. He realized his sin, believed that Jesus was God and was innocent, and he asked Jesus to remember Him. This criminal's humility and Jesus' loving response are a powerful testimony of God's grace. Are you aware of the full weight of your sin? Do you realize you deserve death for your sin (Romans 6:23)? Do you truly believe in the grace of God? Although we deserve death for our sin, God has provided us with a way to be made right with Him through Jesus' death. Jesus took on the sin of the world in His death, and no sinner is irredeemable. If you have faith that Jesus is your Savior, you are washed clean and redeemed by God. Spend some time this week praying for your campers' hearts to be opened to the truth.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

1) Run-through/Prayer

Run-through order of service (assigned parts, transitions, slides for music and skit, video if applicable, etc), assign door greeters, pray, mic check

2) Welcome Cabins

3) Intro Song

4) Camp Competition

Bottle Flip

Have one camper from each cabin come up to the front. Tell them that they will all take turns flipping a partially filled water bottle and trying to get it to land upright. Let the campers continue taking turns flipping the bottle until one does it successfully. That camper is the winner and gets the camp banner.

5) Worship Set

Worship Connector

Who has done something that they have deserved consequences for? Did you receive the consequence? (Allow responses.) Most of the time when we are punished for something, it is because we deserved it. What if you were punished for something that someone else did...how would that make you feel? (Allow responses.) Today we will be learning about the punishment that Jesus took for something He did not deserve. He lived a perfect life with no sin, but He was crucified on the cross for the sin of all people, including you and me, so that we could have God's grace and the gift of eternal life with Him. As we sing this next song, let's ask God to open the eyes of our heart to see how much we need His grace for our sin.

6) Skit

A Criminal Believes

ProPresenter:

Slide: An image on the screen, preferably a silhouette of Jesus on the cross between the two criminals

Characters:

Storyteller (To engage the campers effectively, practice telling this story. You can tell the story in your own words. The script below provides an example of how to build the drama of the story.)

Props:

None

Script:

Storyteller: Hi Campers! Welcome to Camp Grace! My name is (_____) and I'm so happy to see you here. Were any of you with us last week? Do you remember how we talked about Pilate? Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. Crucifixion was a punishment for criminals. Was Jesus a criminal? No. Had He done anything wrong at all? No. And, Pilate knew this. Pilate handed Jesus over because he was afraid the crowd would turn against him. This week, we're looking at Luke 23:32-42 together.

(Dim the lights. Put the image of Christ and the criminals on the screen.)

A crowd is gathered on a hill called The Skull. They're looking up (look up) as three men hang above them on crosses. Two of the men are criminals, but one man, (pause) the man in the middle, is the Son of God, Jesus. He has done no wrong, but the soldiers have nailed His hands and His feet to a cross and have hung Him there to die like a common criminal. (Get louder here.) Many in the crowd sneer at Him and mock Him. They laugh that this so called savior cannot even save Himself. Others in the crowd, (Get softer here.) those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, cry out in tremendous sadness, watching helplessly as the One they love so much suffers and dies. Jesus talks to His Father as He hears the laughing and sneering, (Softly) "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they

are doing.”

One of the criminals hanging there laughs at Jesus. (Elevate your voice here.) He joins in with the crowd to mock this “King of Jews”. He yells through his own pain at Jesus, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!” The other criminal gathers strength to speak through his pain. “We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then, with the very little strength he has left, he says to Jesus, (More softly) “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” Jesus very lovingly says to this criminal, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Let me ask you, did this criminal live a good life? Well, we may not know everything about him, but we do know that he was being punished in a terrible way for his crimes. We know he was a criminal. When the criminal asked Jesus to remember him, did Jesus say, “First you need to do good deeds, memorize some scripture, and go to temple”? No. Jesus instantly forgave him and promised the man would be in heaven that very day. The criminal simply believed that the man who hung bleeding beside him had the power to forgive him. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He believed and he was saved from the penalty of his sin.

Let’s pray. Jesus, You suffered and died in our place. We are all sinners just like the criminal who hung beside You. Thank You that You paid the price for our sin. Thank you that You forgive us without conditions. Thank You that You promise eternal life to us when we believe in You. Amen.



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