

Leader Devotional

Equip

Day Of Atonement: A Festival Celebrating God's Righteousness

This reflective and often solemn festival consisted of fasting, prayer, and repentance. The festival celebrated God's righteousness and lasted 25 hours. Today it's known as Yom Kippur. During this time, the Israelites rededicated the temple to the Lord and repented of their sins. The high priest passed through the veil of the Holy of Holies with sacrificial blood to make atonement for the sins of the people. The New Testament significance lies in Christ, our High Priest, who shed His blood once and for all to make atonement for our sins before God.

Support

Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we're forgiven. His sacrifice gives us a restored relationship with our holy God. Spend some time meditating on the following passages:

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1–2).

"[He] canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14).

What is God speaking to your heart through these verses? Thank Him for making the way for you to be declared righteous before Him. Close your time in reflective celebration as you trust in the righteousness of God.

Kinder - 3rd Grade Lesson

Date: June 6th

Series: God Is

Topic: Review of Who God Is!

Intro: 15 Minutes

Welcome kids as they arrive. They are allowed to play with toys, color, or play group games.

- **1st Service:** Begin at 9:30am
- **2nd Service:** Begin at 11:15am

Worship Focus: 10 minutes

Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. Have them put their hands on their heart. Encourage them to picture a throne on their heart. Ask them who is sitting on it? Remind the students that when we worship, we are removing ourselves from the throne of our heart and putting God in His rightful place - King of our Heart. Encourage them to express their worship with their voices and give them permission to raise their hands as they feel led.

When you feel they are ready, play the two worship songs:

- My Best Friend - Hillsong Kids
- King Of My Heart - Bethel Music

Bible Focus - Main Lesson: 15 minutes

Intro:

Today, we are going to wrap up our two month "God Is" series, where we have learned all about who God is in the Big God Story. Raise your hand if you

remember what we talked about last week. What did we learn about? (Pause for response) We learned about how God forgives us when we mess up, just like how he forgave the paralyzed man of his sin!

Before we get started, I have a big question to ask you. Are you ready? **Who is God to you? Is he Love, is he your Healer? In other words, what word would you use to describe who God is to you?** Today we are going to talk about how God is righteous, but before we do, let's learn about some Bible history.

Every fall, Israel celebrated a day called the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur. It was considered the holiest day in Israel's calendar, the day when the High Priest made sacrifices before God for the sins of Israel and sent a scapegoat out into the wilderness to symbolize the removal of sins. This day helped Israel remember that God loves them and wants them to be righteous (i.e. being right in the eyes of God/obeying His commands) so they can be in relationship with Him. However, all of this happened before the Messiah, the Rescuer, THE sacrificial Lamb of God came to save us from sin. Let's watch this video to learn more about how God completed the Day of Atonement for us all!

Bible Story:

Play Video - *God's Story | Jesus*

Recap:

God is righteous. **What does the word righteous mean?** Righteous means to be right and fair in the eyes of God, thus everything God does is right and fair.

Because God is righteous, offerings and sacrifices needed to be made by God's people in order for their sins to be forgiven. God completed the Day of Atonement once and for all when He sent His Son, **What's His name again?** That's right, Jesus, to take on the sins of the whole world. Jesus paid the price of sin by dying on the cross. He was the final sacrifice. **How does it make you feel to know that Jesus sacrificed Himself for your sins so you could have a relationship with God?**

Grab a Bible and open it with me to **Romans 3:22**. (Help each child find the verse. When they have found it, ask them to put their finger on it or help their neighbor out.) Ask for a volunteer to read the verse loud and proud.

"This righteousness [of God] is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile." (Romans 3:22).

What is God telling us through this verse? Well, through Jesus, God sees each of you as righteous, no matter what we look like! The righteousness of God is given to us as a gift when we have faith in Jesus, when we believe that He is our Lord and Savior. Living a life of righteousness means living a life for Jesus, following, trusting, and obeying His word. You see, Jesus took on the punishment of sin on the cross so we wouldn't have to. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are close with God again, are forgiven of our sins, and are made right in His eyes. How awesome is that! *End in Prayer.*

At this time, split the children into two smaller groups: Kinder & 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Bring one group upstairs to the empty classroom closest to the main exit of the hallway (what used to be the old nursery). The other group will remain in the K-3rd classroom. Focus on Activity #1 first. After 10 minutes, switch locations and focus on Activity #2.

Activity #1: 10 Minutes | Four Corners

What You Need: Four Corner slides, four pieces of paper labeled 1-4 (tape them to four corners of K-3rd room)

Relate: For the past two months we have focused on who God is: compassionate, love, Restorer, Healer, etc. Let's put your knowledge of the Big God Story to the test by playing a game of Four Corners!

What To Do:

1. Point out the four corners in the room. Each corner is labeled.
 2. Display the first game slide on the TVs.
 3. Invite the children to go to the corner that matches the answer they believe to be correct.
 4. Corner 1 = Answer A
Corner 2 = Answer B
Corner 3 = Answer C
Corner 4 = Answer D
 5. Read the slides and the answers as you go through them. They are also written below:
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1. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people waved palms and shouted,...
 - a. "We love you, Jesus!"
 - b. "Hosanna!"
 - c. "You da best, Jesus!"
 - d. "The King has arrived!"
 2. "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal _____."
 - a. Amounts of chocolate
 - b. Amount of money
 - c. Life
 - d. Love
 3. Through The Big God Story, God sent _____ to come down to live with us, die for us, and rise again.
 - a. John
 - b. Joe
 - c. Abraham
 - d. Jesus (or His Son)
 4. Who is the main character in The Big God Story?
 - a. David
 - b. Esther
 - c. God

- d. Noah
5. How did the paralyzed man get to Jesus?
- a. He yelled for Jesus to come over and heal him
 - b. A stranger helped him
 - c. His friends brought him to Jesus
 - d. He flew
6. Why did Jesus feed five thousand people?
- a. He had compassion for them
 - b. He cared about their physical and spiritual needs
 - c. He wanted to show God's power
 - d. All of the above
7. Why did Peter start to sink when he walked out on the water toward Jesus?
- a. Because he had eaten rocks for lunch
 - b. Because he was afraid and started to doubt Jesus
 - c. Because a brick was tied to his foot
 - d. Because a whale started to eat him
8. Jesus made mud with ____ and ____ and rubbed the mud on the blind man's eyes.
- a. Spit and dirt
 - b. Spit and concrete
 - c. Spit and brown paint
 - d. Brown and white paint
9. When Jesus saw Mary and her friends crying,...
- a. He felt no emotion.
 - b. He was happy.
 - c. Jesus wept with them.
 - d. Jesus ignored them.
10. Lazarus had been dead for ____ days before Jesus raised him.
- a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four

Activity #2: 10 Minutes | Celebration Station

What You Need: rocks (1 per child), permanent markers

Relate: The Day of Atonement reminded Israel of God's righteousness and how they needed to rid themselves of sin. God is holy and righteous, and He wants us to be righteous so we can be in relationship with Him. That's why He sent Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. When we trust and obey Jesus, we are made new. The Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old is gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

You and I don't need to sacrifice animals on the Day of Atonement anymore because Jesus was the ultimate sin sacrifice. His perfect life and death on the cross made it so that we no longer have to offer sacrifices. Through Jesus, God sees us as righteous! And we choose to walk in righteousness out of love for our Savior.

What To Do:

1. At this Celebration Station, children will have the opportunity to write on each rock a word that reminds them that God has made them righteous through the blood of Jesus.
2. One side of the rock will say "sin."
3. On the other side the kids can write words such as "forgiven," "cleansed," "righteous," "loved," "chosen," "amazed," "free," etc. (*Help the children write the words if needed*).
4. Once everyone gets a chance to write a word on a rock, invite each person to share why he chose that word.

Ending:

Return to the K-3rd classroom and let kids play until parents arrive. K-3rd is **not** allowed on the playground at this time.

As parents pick their children up, tell them the main points we talked about today and the activities we did. Please make sure kids take home all the things that they came with (ex. Jackets or toys) and any crafts they made in class.

After children are gone, please wipe down the chairs and tables and put supplies back so they can be ready for the next service.