

Session 15: Sample Lesson—God’s Love Never Changes

Welcome the fifteenth session of the *Life on Life Sunday School Teachers’ Training Curriculum*. We are going to witness a live session of *Life on Life Sunday School Curriculum*. Today’s lesson is taken from the Primary book and the lesson is God’s Love Never Changes. You can teach *Life on Life Sunday School Curriculum* to the children more effectively if you follow the Sunday School Teacher’s Guide.

God’s Love Never Changes

Quarter 4 • Lesson 2

Focus on Spiritual Formation

1. *Connecting*: Play a game to show how people react when they make mistakes.
2. *Teaching*: Hear how Jesus still loved and restored Peter after he made a mistake (Matthew 26:69–75; John 21:15–17; Romans 5:8).
3. *Responding*: Choose to let go of mistakes and receive God’s love.

SUPPLIES

- Small stone for each child
- Bible
- Optional Supplies:*
- Paper
- Pencils
- *The Action Bible* pages 628–629 and 649
- Student Pages

Teacher Devotion:

*I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD.*

Romans 8:38–39

Nothing can separate you from the love of God. Nothing! No difficult circumstance. No broken relationship. No sin or error you do. Nothing can separate you from His great love. Do you believe that? If not, what keeps you from believing it?

God's Word says that He has not only given us love, but demonstrated it to us while we were still in our sin. His love does not depend on us doing everything right. His love is not dependent on us at all! It is freely given because God is love.

Family Connection: Share with the families about God's unchanging love. It could be that the families also need to know that God loves them, even when they make mistakes!

LESSON TIME

1. Connecting: Play a game to show how people react when they make mistakes.

Teacher Tip: This lesson is focused on God's unchanging love. Many children who have experienced hard things may feel rejected and unworthy. Knowing that God will love them no matter what can be an anchor through the storms of life.

Greet your children warmly as they come into class today. When you are ready to begin, divide the children into 2 teams. If you have a large number of children, you can have 2 teams of 8–10 children each. The others can watch and cheer.

Explain that each team should line up. Each child should hold one hand out in a fist with the back of the hand facing up. Place a small stone on the back of the fist of the first person in each line. When you say, "Go!" the team members should pass the stone down the line—from one fist to the next fist. They cannot touch it with the other hand. If someone drops the stone, that child can place it on his or her fist and keep passing it. The first group to get the stone all the way down the line wins. If your children find this too easy, you can make the game more difficult by making them start at the beginning of the line each time the stone is dropped or having them try to do it with their eyes closed.

When the game is over, ask the children to sit down to talk about the game.

- **What are some things you thought or felt when your team won or lost the game? For example, if you lost, maybe you felt disappointed. If you won, you were excited or proud.**
- **How did you feel when someone on your team dropped the stone? Do not blame anyone, just say how you felt—upset, angry, etc.**
- **How did you feel if you were the one who dropped the stone?**

In life, we all make mistakes sometimes. We choose wrong things—we sin. We are careless. That happens to everyone. Often when we make mistakes, others around us get angry or disappointed. We may sometimes feel that no one could love us when we make so many mistakes. Today we are going to talk about how God feels about us when we sin and make mistakes.

2. Teaching: Hear how Jesus still loved and restored Peter after he made a mistake (Matthew 26:69–75; John 21:15–17; Romans 5:8).

Optional: If you are using *The Action Bible*, have the children read this story on pages 628–629 and 649.

Here is some background to help you understand the story we are about to hear. It happened at the end of Jesus' time on earth. Jesus had been arrested and was brought to trial before the religious leaders. Most of Jesus' followers scattered when Jesus was arrested. But not Peter.

Peter followed behind the crowd and went into the courtyard to wait and see what happened.

If you have a Bible available, read this story directly from the Bible.

Listen to this story I will tell you now from the Bible. One of the servant girls said to Peter, "You were with Jesus of Galilee."

"I do not know what you are talking about," Peter denied.

Peter moved out by the gateway. Another servant girl accused him before the people there, "This man was with Jesus!"

Peter again denied it. "I do not know the man!"

After a while, some others approached Peter. "Surely you are one of Jesus' followers. Your accent gives you away."

"I do not know the man!" Peter exclaimed loudly. Immediately a rooster crowed.

Peter remembered that Jesus had told him earlier that he would deny Jesus 3 times before the rooster crowed. Peter went outside weeping bitterly.

- Tell me in just one sentence what mistake Peter made?
- How do you think Peter felt when he realized he had sinned and denied Jesus?
- Think of a time in your own life when you made a mistake and hurt someone you loved. Answer quietly to yourself: how did that person respond?
- How do you think Jesus might have felt toward Peter after his mistake?

Often when we make mistakes, people get angry and disappointed. Peter made a big mistake in denying Jesus. Let's see what happened when Jesus saw Peter later.

This next part of the story happens after Jesus died on the cross and was buried and then was raised to life again. After Jesus' death, the disciples were sad, and some of them went back to fishing because they had been fishermen. While they were out in the boat, they saw someone on the shore. It was Jesus who was alive again!

- What do you think Peter did when he saw Jesus, whom he had denied?

Allow children to offer ideas before continuing.

Peter was so excited he jumped into the water and swam to shore. After they all ate a meal together, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?"

Peter quickly answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You."

Again, Jesus asked him, "Do you love Me?"

"Yes, Lord, You know that I love You!" Peter said.

A third time Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him a third time.

The Bible does not tell us, but it could be that Peter was remembering how he had denied Jesus 3 times. Peter may have felt that he could never receive Jesus' love again because of his mistakes.

Peter said, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You."

- Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
- What are some things you learn about Jesus from this story?

Sometimes we make mistakes, even sin. Sometimes hard things happen to us. But there is one thing that never changes—God's love. Listen to this verse:

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
Romans 5:8

- How would you say this verse in your own words?
- What does this show you about God's love for you?

Help the children to see that God loves them even while they are still doing wrong things. His love never changes!

3. Responding: Choose to let go of mistakes and receive God's love.

Teacher Tip: If your children ask questions about sin and becoming a Christian, explain that sin is choosing our own way over God's. You can use the Salvation Path to help you talk with them.

Have the children stand in a circle. Give each child a small stone. Tell the children to grip the stone tightly with both hands. They should lift the stone up over their heads and hold it there until you say they can drop it. If any children start to drop their arms, encourage them to keep them raised. The point of this activity is that the children will experience a release when they let go of mistakes and receive God's love.

God's love is not like human love. It is not just some romantic thing. It is strong. It is constant. It never changes. God loves you!

Think of times when you have made mistakes that upset, angered, or disappointed people in your life. It might be a friend or a family member or a teacher. Maybe you feel that you have made so many mistakes that no one will love you. Maybe you feel that you have denied Jesus like Peter did. Those mistakes can become heavy to hold, just like the stones you are holding above your heads.

God wants you to know that He loves you no matter what. He loves you even when you are making mistakes. His love never changes. If you want to let go of the mistakes and receive God's love, lower your arms and drop the stone in the middle of the circle.

Allow the children to drop the stones. Then allow them a few minutes to respond quietly to this release. They can think of a prayer or song they would say to God about His unchanging love.

Optional Supplies:

Supply paper and colored pencils for the children. They can write a prayer or draw a picture of how they feel knowing God loves them even when they make mistakes or sin.

If you are using the Student Pages, allow the children to respond by writing a short prayer to God on their pages.

End of Option

Close your time by speaking this blessing from Psalm 86:15 over the children.

Blessing: May you know that the Lord is compassionate toward you. He is slow to anger. He loves you with an abundant love that never changes.

- What have you learned in this session about teaching this curriculum?

We have come to the end of the *Life on Life Sunday School Curriculum* training. Thank you for your faithful and diligent participation through the 15 online training sessions. We hope this training will be a blessing to you and the Sunday School children you minister to. Thank you very much and God bless you. Let's pray.

For more information about *Life on Life* or to purchase *Life on Life* Teacher Guides and Student Books in English, Hindi, Telegu, Tamil or Malayalam, please contact:



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