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## Jesus Shows Us How to Forgive and Heal

# 5

#### **Background for the Teacher**

Sooner or later, someone will disappoint, betray, or hurt us. When this happens, there is a natural tendency to retaliate. The Old Testament is filled with instances of sanctioned retaliation. "You shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth . ." (Exodus 21:23–24). But the New Testament Scriptures reveal to us Jesus' teaching about mercy and compassion: "I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek, turn the other one to him as well . . ." (Matthew 5:39). God establishes a new covenant with his people and, through his Son, shows us how to forgive and heal others. In Luke 5:17–26 we read the story of how Jesus not only cured the physical suffering of a paralyzed man, but he cured his spiritual ailment as well. Jesus forgave the man's sins and those of his friends. Through his mercy and compassion, Jesus showed the paralyzed man that God truly cared for him.

#### Faith Focus

As Christians we are called to act with compassion and mercy toward others. We are to forgive those who hurt us.

#### Our Call to Forgive Others

Saint Francis of Assisi followed
Jesus Christ by devoting his life
to helping the poor, the sick,
and the dying. He spread
Christ's message of healing
and love to everyone he met.
We, too, are called to be
caring, compassionate, and
forgiving. Such healing
actions are at the heart of
what it means to be Church.

#### **Time for Reflection**

Think about a time someone has deliberately or unintentionally hurt you. Write what you think you need to do in order to heal.

#### A Teacher's Prayer

Jesus, healer of all my hurts, I turn to you in times of need. Please give me the grace I need to forgive those who hurt me. Help me teach the students the importance of compassion and understanding. Heal their hurts and enable them to forgive those who have hurt them. Amen.

## Take Home PAGES

Pre-chapter home activities for families

#### **Beginning at Home**

Many of the students will have spent some time with their families working with the Take Home Family Time pages at home. You can help the students connect with what was done at home by discussing the saint featured or using A Prayer for the Week at an appropriate time.







#### **Sunday Connection**

Patron Saint of: arimals,

Feast Day: October 4

Visit Our Web Site Teachers and parents can visit blestarewe.com for:

grace to act with kind

ir giving come from

- resources related to the Sunday liturgy
- summary of the Sunday Scripture readings
   Reflection Question of the Week
- seasonal activities



## More About the Saint of the Week

Saint Francis of Assisi Visited hospitals and cared for the sick. Believed that when you serve the poor, you serve Christ himself. Told people about Jesus' message of peace and love. Felt all God's creations, human and animal, deserved respect.





A Prayer for the Week in Chapter 5 relates to that part of the chapter that teaches us to act with kindness and mercy because it is God's will. You might invite the students to meditate on Saint Francis' life for a few moments before beginning the prayer.

#### 5 Jesus Shows Us How to Forgive and Heal



15 % He shared our sadness and understood our pain.

Rased on Isaiah 53-4

God sent Jesus, his Son, to show us how to forgive and heal one another. Think carefully. Remember people who forgave you when you did wrong. Remember people who helped you heal when you had done wrong. How did they help you heal when you were hurting?

#### Activity

Look at the pictures. In what ways is Monique being hurt? Help Monique find healing and forgiveness by drawing a line to the person who can best help her. Then choose one person from the pictures. Share with a partner how that person helps Monique.



Accept all reasonable responses.

Believe

now can we

## **Additional** Activity

### **Drawing a Cartoon**

- · Give the students paper and markers.
- · Ask them to draw a cartoon showing them being kind to someone.
- Allow students to pass around their cartoons so that everyone gets to view several cartoons.

## Day 1

#### **Objective**

To identify ways we have been healed by others

#### Introduction

#### Praying with Scripture

- · Welcome the students and remind them that God's children help one another.
- · Ask volunteers to suggest ways they can be of help to others.
- · Call the students to the prayer corner. Light the candle. Pray the opening Scripture verse at the top of the page. Sing the unit song on page 82.
- · Allow a moment for reflection.

#### Development

#### **Personal Experience**

- · Invite a volunteer to read aloud the "Share" paragraph.
- · Ask "Who forgave you when you did something wrong?" (Answers will vary.)

#### **Doing the Activity**

- Invite the students to look at the pictures as a volunteer reads the directions. Give the students time to complete the activity.
- · Discuss the students' answers. Point out that the third situation was caused by the choices Monique and her friend made.

#### Conclusion

- Ask the students to name a person who helped them heal when they they were hurting. (Accept all responses.)
- · End the class by praying for the people named.
- Looking Ahead Have the students reflect on the question in the arrow, and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.

## Hear & Believe

#### **Objective**

To understand that Jesus' power to forgive and heal comes from God

#### 1 Introduction

#### **Sharing Experiences**

Ask "When you want to help a sick friend, what do you do?" (Answers will vary, but may include: pray, send a card, call, email, visit.)

#### 2 Development



#### Discussing the Scripture Story

#### The Illustration

- Invite the children to examine the picture on pages 86 and 87.
- Ask "What is happening in this picture?" (A man is being lowered through the roof.)

#### The Scripture

- Tell the students that this Scripture story shows that God sent Jesus to heal us.
- Have the students work in three groups. Give each group about one third of the story to read. Have them decide how to retell their third of the story. Then have a member of each group retell their part of the story.
- Ask "How do you know the friends of the paralyzed man were determined to get him to Jesus?" (They climbed onto the roof and lowered him into the house through an opening they made.)
  - "Why did the man's friends go to so much trouble?" (They had faith that Jesus would heal him.)
  - "What do you think is the most important part of this story?" (Possible responses include: the men had faith in Jesus' healing power; the men's sins were forgiven; Jesus healed the paraluzed man.)
- Help the students understand that it was the faith of the paralyzed man and his friends that moved Jesus to heal the man and free them of their sins.

#### Hear & Believe

#### Scripture Jesus Cures a Sick Man

Crowds followed Jesus wherever he went. Many came to hear the Good News and be healed. Some were sick in body and others were troubled in spirit. They believed that Jesus had the power to heal them. One day, a group of men carried a paralyzed friend to the place where Jesus was teaching. They were sure Jesus would heal their friend.

When they arrived at the house where Jesus was speaking, there were so many people that they could not get inside!

One of them had a great idea! The men climbed on the roof. They were able to make a hole in the roof. Very carefully, they lowered their friend inside.

Seeing this, Jesus knew that they trusted him to heal their friend. He said to them, "As for you, your sins are forgiven."

But someone asked, "How can he say that? Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

To show that God had given him the power to forgive sins, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

The man who had been paralyzed stood up! He picked up his stretcher and walked out of the house. The man praised God all the way home. Everyone was surprised and said, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Based on Luke 5:17-26



#### 86

## Scripture Background

#### Homes in Jesus' Time

- First-century village homes in Galilee were small, boxlike buildings, usually made of stone, or handmade, sun-dried clay brick. The flat roof was made of branches woven together, placed on wooden rafters, and covered with clay that was baked hard in the sun. It would not have been difficult for the paralytic's friends to have "opened up the roof" (Mark 2:4).
- The roof, topped by a short wall (Deuteronomy 22:8), protected people from falling off, and added living space to the small homes. It was reached by climbing a ladder or narrow stairs positioned against the outer walls of the home.

#### God Sends Tesus to Heal

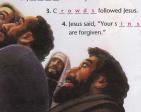
God sends Jesus to heal us because we were born with Original Sin that has been passed on to all people. This is the sin of the first man and woman. When Iesus saw the great faith of the paralyzed man and his friends, he reached out to them with forgiveness and healing. Jesus looked at the friends' troubled spirits and freed them of sin. Jesus saw the man's sickness and made him well. Jesus' power to forgive and heal comes from God.

THE RESERVE TO THE RE

#### Activity

Help the paralyzed man's friends get onto the roof of the house. Fix the rungs of the ladder by completing the word puzzle. First, fill in the blanks in the following sentences. Then, put the words on the steps of the ladder. 1. The men were sure Jesus would h e a 1 their friend.

2. J e s u s knew they trusted him.



What does lesus teach us about mercy and compassion?

Faith Words

Original Sin is the sin

of the first man and

woman. We received

this first sin from them.

Heal

Jesus

Crowds

Sins

Original Sin

Additional Activity

#### Filling in a Prayer Verse

- On the board, print "d\_ \_ o
- Group the students in pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Tell them to read Mark 5:36 to find the missing letters in the prayer verse.
- Choose a volunteer to print the missing letters in the proper spaces on the chalkboard. ( o nt be afrai; jus hae faith) Pray the verse with the students.

#### **Understanding the Scripture**

- · Choose a volunteer to read aloud "God Sends Jesus to Heal."
- · Say "When we have faith as the paralyzed man and his friends did, we can be sure Jesus will forgive and help us, too."

#### **Doing the Activity**

- Help students understand the directions for the activity on page 87. Point out that there are two parts to this activity.
- · Invite volunteers to share their answers.

#### Conclusion

- · Ask the students to explain why Jesus can heal us of our sins.
- · End the lesson by praying for people who need Iesus' healing love.

Looking Ahead Have the students reflect on the question in the arrow, and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.



#### **Holy Land Pilgrimages**

In the land where Abraham and Jesus lived, and where Muhammad visited, the government of Israel is now the guardian of the holy places of Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Millions of worshipers of the three faiths come to the Holy Land each year to pray, to be healed and forgiven, and to feel the nearness of God. They try to practice respect for each other's traditions.

## **Hear & Believe**

**Objective** 

To explore the meaning of compassion and mercy



#### **Sharing Experiences**

- · Ask "What happens when we as Christians
- forget to act the way Jesus taught?" (Answers may include: We may be unkind and hurt other people. We may break one of the commandments.)
- · Explain that when we follow Jesus' teachings, people get along and help each other.

## 2 Development

### **Discussing the Scripture Story**

#### The Photograph

- Invite the students to look at the photograph on page 88.
- Ask "What is happening in this picture?" (kids are playing, having fun)
- · Explain that the children in the picture get along with each other. They are enjoying being with each other and living the way Jesus taught.

#### The Scripture

- · Have the students follow along silently as you read the first paragraph of "Jesus Shows Us How to Act."
- · Say "Sometimes we make wrong choices and hurt each other. We need someone to teach and show us how to act "
- · Have volunteers each read one sentence of Saint Paul's letter.
- · Ask "What are some things Saint Paul says we should do?" (Responses may include: tell the truth, make up, share, be kind, compassionate, forgiving.)
- Say "God wants everyone to be happy. When we are kind and respectful, all people can be happy."

#### Hear & Believe



He wanted the man to be happy and healthy. so he helped him. Jesus teaches us how to be compassionate and merciful. But, sometimes, Christians forget to follow Tesus' example.

Saint Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus. He told them to remember what Iesus said. He told them what they should do every day. He wrote:

"Always tell the truth. If you get angry at someone, make up before the day ends. Don't steal. Work hard so you will have something to share with your neighbors. Do not use bad language. Let your words tell people about God's goodness. Throw all bitterness, shouting, and hatred out of your mind and your heart. Be kind to one another. compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ " Based on Ephesians 4:25-32



#### Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

- Modern scholarship has proposed that this work is not a letter, not written by Saint Paul, and not written to the Ephesians. Although it opens and ends like a letter, its content is more like an essay. Scholars believe it was written between A.D. 80 and A.D. 100 for several churches by someone who knew Paul's teachings very well.
- This work develops a sense of Church as universal rather than as a local community entity. The story on this page is based on a section of Ephesians that highlights the difference between non-Christian and Christian actions.



#### **Our Church Teaches**

Jesus followed his Father's will. He forgave people their sins and healed them. He acted with compassion and mercy. Jesus showed compassion to the paralyzed man because he understood the man's need and helped him. He showed mercy to the man's friends because he was kind, generous, and forgiving. Jesus tells us to do the same because it is God's will. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would stay with us always, to help us do God's will.

#### We Believe

God sent Jesus to heal and forgive us. We follow God's will when we live and act as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit is with us and guides us to do God's will.

Faith Words

Compassion means

to have feeling for

someone's problem

compassion

#### Activity

Sara wants to act with compassion and forgiveness as Jesus teaches, but she is not sure what to say. Circle the words Sara could use.



#### **Additional Activity**

#### **Identifying Compassion**

- Arrange students in groups.
- Give each group an action photo involving several people taken from a newspaper or magazine.
- Direct the groups to decide whether or not the people in the photos are acting with compassion and mercy. If they are not, have the students suggest ways they could change their behavior.

#### **Understanding the Doctrine**

- · Have a volunteer read "Our Church Teaches."
- Say "Jesus teaches us to act with compassion and mercy. Being compassionate isn't always easy, so Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us to do God's will."
- Ask "What would the world be like if all people were compassionate towards one another?" (Possible responses include: there would not be any war or prejudice; no one would be poor, or homeless.)

#### We Believe/Faith Words

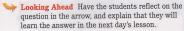
- · Reinforce the We Believe statement.
- Ask "Guided by the Holy Spirit, what do we try to do?" (follow God's will)
- Ask volunteers to explain the meaning of the Faith Words in their own words.

#### **Doing the Activity**

- Explain the instructions for the activity on page 89.
- Have volunteers share their answers.
   Encourage discussion.

#### Conclusion

- Ask the students why it is important to act with compassion and mercy. Invite them to post newspaper articles about or pictures with people showing compassion on the Unit 2 bulletin board.
- End the lesson by praying for the understanding and openness to know how to be compassionate and merciful to all people.



## Respond

#### **Objective**

To understand how Saint Francis acted with compassion and mercy

### 1 Introduction

#### **Sharing Experiences**

- Ask "Whom do you think is a compassionate person?" (Responses will vary.)
- Explain that today's story is about someone who was very compassionate.

#### 2 Development

#### Discussing the Saint Story

#### The Photograph

- Invite the students to look at the photograph of an actor playing the role of Saint Francis.
- Ask "What can you tell about Saint Francis from this picture?" (Francis was poor; he wore a religious habit.)

#### The Story

- Gather as many of the following story props as possible: scarves or pieces of fabric, play money, paper swords, and paper hearts. Distribute these among the students.
- On the chalkboard, print: scarves = cloth, clothes paper money = money, business paper sword = soldier, battle paper heart = happy, love, peace
- Invite the students to listen as you read the story. Have them hold up their story object when they hear a word that matches or relates to it.
- Ask "How did Saint Francis show compassion and mercy?" (He helped the poor, sick, dying and homeless.)
  - "Why do you think other people soon joined Saint Francis?" (They were attracted by his happiness and holiness; they wanted to help others.)
- Tell the students that Saint Francis also had compassion for all the animals of the earth. He respected everything God had made and called all God's creatures his "sisters" and "brothers."

#### Respond

#### Saint Francis of Assisi



Francis was born in 1182 in Assisi, Italy. As a young boy, he wanted to be a rich cloth merchant just like his father. Francis quickly learned how to buy and sell cloth. He liked the hard work and all the money that he made. Francis enjoyed spending money, too. With all that work and money, Francis thought that he was happy.

But as Francis grew older, he became bored with his life. He wanted adventure. So, he became a soldier in the Assisi army. Once, Francis fought in a battle and was taken prisoner by the enemy.

After he was set free, Francis returned to his father's business. But he found out that making money and selling clothes did not please him any longer. He spent a lot of time praying that the Holy Spirit would show him a better way to live.

One day Francis saw Jesus Christ in a vision! God was calling him to a new kind of adventure! Francis decided to do all he could to help the poor, the sick, and the dying. At long last, Francis was happy. He knew that by helping others he was spreading Jesus' message of love, peace, and happiness.

Soon, many others would join Francis to work among the sick, poor, and homeless. These people became a group called the Franciscans. Today, Franciscan friars and sisters spread Jesus' message of love and peace, just as Saint Francis of Assisi did long ago.



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## Enriching the Chapter

#### **Canticle of the Sun**

- Read to the students from Saint Francis' "Canticle of the Sun" as shown below. Then ask them to illustrate this prayer.
- "O . . . good Lord God, to Thee belong . . . all blessings! Praised be my Lord God with all His creatures; and especially our brother the sun, who brings us the day, and who brings us the light . . .

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars which He has set clear and lovely in heaven. Praised be my Lord for our sister water . . .

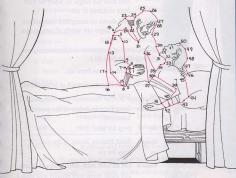
Praised be my Lord for our brother fire . . . Praised be my Lord for our mother the earth . . . Praise ye, and bless ye the Lord, and give thanks unto Him."

#### **Activities**

Jesus acted with compassion and mercy when he cured the paralyzed beggar. Jesus taught that there are many ways we can be healing and forgiving. Saint Francis learned from Jesus' actions.

THE WAR DE LONG TO THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PERTY OF THE

 Connect the dots below to draw a picture of Saint Francis spreading Jesus' message. Then, color in the drawing.



2. Unscramble the letters to see what Saint Francis learned.

ssiopcoanm + yemrc = eapce & nessipahp

compassion + mercy = peace & happiness

How do we ask for guidance to heal and forgive?

91

#### **Additional Activity**

#### **Interviewing Saint Francis**

- Using Saints for Children by Mary Kathleen Glavich or another resource, read several stories about Saint Francis to the children. Encourage the students to imagine that Saint Francis will be visiting your session.
- Allow all those who wish, an opportunity to portray Saint Francis.
- Invite others to ask Saint Francis questions.

#### **Doing the Activities**

#### 1. Connecting the Dots

- Direct the students' attention to the activity. Choose a volunteer to read the directions.
- Suggest that students connect the dots and then color the drawing.

#### 2. Unscrambling Letters

- To help students unscramble the letters, you might put the first letter of each word in the equation on the board. (c, m, p, h)
- Have a volunteer write the unscrambled words on the board and read aloud what Saint Francis learned.

#### 3 Conclusion

- Ask students to tell what they think was good about the way Saint Francis lived.
- End the class by praying for the Holy Spirit's help to act with compassion and mercy.

Looking Ahead Have the students reflect on the question in the arrow, and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.



#### **Catholic Social Teaching**

#### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Explain to the students that Saint Francis gave away all his belongings to help the poor. They might want to form a club called P.E.A.C.E. (People Eager to Assist Children Everywhere). Begin by helping the students research the needs of other children in your area.

Once you have identified needs and organizations that assist children, encourage donations of goods by the children.

## **Prayer**

#### **Objective**

To pray a response prayer



#### **Prayer Celebration**

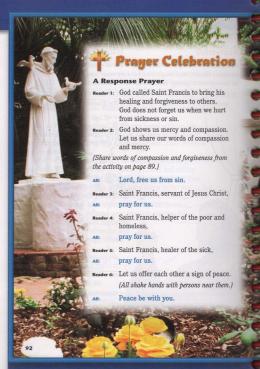
#### Preparing for Prayer

- Remind the students that we often turn in prayer to the saints, hoping that they will bring our needs and petitions to God for us.
- Select six readers for the prayer. If the students illustrated the "Canticle of the Sun" prayer (p. 90), call them forward, one by one, and ask them to place their drawings on the prayer table.

Say "(Name), God loves you and blesses you," as each student places his or her drawing on the prayer table.

#### A Response Prayer

- · Invite the readers to begin the prayer.
- Invite the remaining students to pray the response.
- At the indicated time, invite volunteers to share their words of compassion and forgiveness that they circled on page 89.
- End with the song you have chosen for the celebration.





#### Looking Ahead to Chapter 6



#### **Take Home**

Tear out the **Take Home Family Time** pages for the next chapter.
Remind the students to work on
these at home with their parents
and other family members.

#### Cultural Connections blestarewe.com/familytime



Visit our Web site for the Take Home Family Time pages in Polish,

Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

## Chapter Review

- Circle the letter of the best answer.
  - means to feel sorry for someone and want to help.

    - a. Power
    - b. Mercy (c.) Compassion
  - d. Forgiveness
  - 2. God sent lesus to forgive us.
    - a. remember
    - b. trust
    - c. tempt
    - d. heal

- is the sin of the first man and woman a. Power
  - b. Greed
- (c.) Original Sin
- d. Misunderstanding
- is God's kindness and forgiveness.
- a. Compassion
- b. Power
- c. Understanding
- d. Mercy
- Complete the sentences with words from the box.

	faith	compassion	Sa
1	will	Holy Spirit	Sa

int Paul int Francis

- 1. The Holy Spirit is with us and helps us do God's will.
- 2. Saint Francis spread Jesus' message of love and peace.
- 3. We follow God's will when we live and act as Jesus did.
- 4. Saint Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus and told them to be kind to one another and to forgive one another.
- 5. The friends of the paralyzed man had \_\_faith\_\_ in Jesus' healing power.

Chapter Review

#### **Answer Locator**

	non usi	1	
1	p. 89	3	p. 87
2	p. 89	4	p. 89
Igm	ents co	В	Adheli
1	p. 89	4	p. 88
2	p. 90	5	рр. 86,
3	p. 89		87

#### Day 5

## Chapter Review

#### **Reviewing the Chapter**

- . The Chapter Review exercises will help the students recall the important content of the chapter as well as prepare for the Chapter 5
- · Be sure that the students understand that God wants us to act with compassion and mercy.

#### **Completing the Exercises**

- Invite the students to complete the Chapter Review. Allow them to look back at the pages of the chapter to find answers they cannot recall. The Answer Locator gives the page number where each answer may be found.
- · Be sure to discuss the answers with your class and go over concepts that were generally misunderstood or forgotten. Then have the students correct any mistakes they made.

#### **Memory Tip**

Suggest the children make a habit of thinking of all living things as their brothers and sisters as Saint Francis did.

#### Chapter 5 ♦ Page 94

Day 5

## Chapter Review

#### **Optional Testing**

After the students have completed the Chapter Review, you may wish to administer the Chapter 5 Test using the reproducible pages in the test book or from the CD-ROM for Grade 3. If you use the CD-ROM version of the testing program, you may customize the test to meet the needs of your class.



## (5) Chapter Review

**@** Who Am I?

Write the the number of each sentence on the correct line.

- 1. My friends carried me to Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus
- 2. I understood the sick \_\_\_\_3 \_\_ Saint Paul man's problems.
- 3. I advised Christians to \_\_\_\_4\_ Saint Francis remember what Jesus said.
- the Holy Spirit.
- 5. I help you follow and obey God. \_\_\_\_\_ paralyzed man
- Respond to the following.

4. I prayed for help from

1. Write about two things Jesus did for the paralyzed man.

Answers may include: Jesus reached out to him with forgiveness and healing; Jesus made him well and forgave his sins.

Write about some things Christians can do to show compassion and mercy. <u>Answers will vary.</u>

94 Chapter Review

#### Self-Evaluation

This session was

- ☐ one of the best.☐ pretty good.
- in need of improvement.

What worked out best was

For next time I would change

I will be sure to prepare for

#### **Answer Locator**

	(	C	
1	p. 86	4	p. 90
2	p. 88	5	p. 89
3	p. 88		
	-	)	
	pp. 8	6, 87	7

#### Faith in Action

5 Holy Spirit

#### The Parish Council

Invite the students to turn to *Faith in Action* on page 131. Discuss the ministry and then have the students complete the related activities.