

Lesson 19

Forgiveness and Peace

Lesson Objectives

- Realize that mercy involves more than words and actions; it also involves our attitudes toward others.
- Explore Jesus' teaching about peace, nonviolence, and forgiveness.
- Grow in our desire to make peace with others, following the example of Jesus.

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, we will learn about the virtue of mercy.

Lesson Plan

Introduction (Minutes 1-10)

- Pray the Opening Prayer together.
- Review the introduction.
- Show a video or song.

Review Point 1: More About Anger (Minutes 10-15)

Ask the students: Have you ever had to control your anger? What did you do to control it?

Review Point 2: Revenge (Minutes 15-20)

- Ask the students: What do you think feels better: forgiving others or being angry and seeking revenge?

Review Point 3: Forgiveness (Minutes 20-25)

- Ask the students: The Apostles abandoned Jesus when he needed them, but Jesus forgave them. Do you think it would be hard to forgive people who weren't there to support you?

Activities: Choose 1 or 2. (Minutes 25-30)

Activity 1:

Dealing with anger

Answer key:

- Answers will vary.

Activity 2:

Report about the arrest of Jesus

Answer key:

- Answers will vary.

Prayer and Role Model (Minutes 30-35)

- Pray From the Maronite Tradition (Together)

Complete Recall Section (Minutes 35-40)

Answer true or false.

Answer key:

1. The virtue of mercy helps us forgive others when they have hurt us. **T**
2. If someone hurts us first, it is OK to hurt that person in return. **F**
3. The feeling of anger itself is not a sin. **T**
4. Christians try to make peace with others instead of seeking revenge. **T**
5. We can stop forgiving others the seventy-eighth time they hurt us. **F**
6. Jesus forgave the soldiers who nailed him to the cross. **T**

Review Weekly Journal (Minutes 40-44)

For Additional Reflection:

Have you ever been forgiven after you've hurt someone or made them angry?

Closing (Minutes 45)

- Pray the Concluding Prayer together.

Optional

- Use the Climbing Mountain Section and Reaching the Summit Section.