

May Sunday School



*The Church that
Children Built*

Usually our curriculum rotates between Scripture, Prayer & Living Our Faith. This year would be a Living our Faith year. The focus is on the promises in the Baptismal Covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching & fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil and whenever you fall into sin repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

That will break down into the following focuses:

Staying connected with God

Saying "I'm sorry" and standing up for what's right

Sharing your faith

Serving others

Making the world a better place

May: Saying "I'm sorry" and Standing up for What's Right
part 2

One of the things that we promise in the Baptismal Covenant is that we will "persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord."

What that means is that we will try to follow the ways of God, but when we don't we will say "I'm sorry" and try again.

We sometimes think that if we mess up, God won't be able to use us, but God uses people who aren't perfect all the time. Some of the people who God has chosen to do big things had also had times when they weren't following the ways of God and had to say "I'm sorry" and try again.

One of these people was King David. David was chosen by God to be king when he was just a teenager. David made some huge mistakes as king. One of the big ones was that he fell in love with a woman who was already married. Her husband was one of his generals. David ordered the general into the front lines of the war hoping that he would be killed. When the general was killed, David married the general's wife. God sent a prophet named Nathan to tell David that God knew what he had done and that it was very wrong. David repented and God forgave him, but because of how great his sin was God told David that it wasn't him who would build God's temple. God forgives us when we ask but sometimes we have to do things differently because of what we have done. That doesn't mean that God can't use us. God used David to build the kingdom of Israel.

Another of the people who needed to say "I'm sorry" was Peter. Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. He followed Jesus through Jesus' whole ministry. Jesus even said to Peter that Peter was the rock on which the church would be built. In fact that is why Peter is called Peter. Peter's name was actually Simon. But when Jesus said that he was the rock, which is petros in Greek, he started to be called Peter. On the night that Jesus was arrested Peter followed him to the house of the chief priest. While he was there, he was asked if he was with Jesus and he denied that he knew Jesus. He actually denied that he knew Jesus three times. After the

resurrection, Jesus forgave him and Peter became one of the leaders in the church after Jesus ascended to heaven.

A third person who needed to say “I’m sorry” was Paul. Paul actually was someone who didn’t believe that Jesus was the Messiah when Jesus was on earth. Paul was a young Jewish leader who took part in arresting Christians in the early years of the church. He was actually on his way to Damascus to arrest more Christians when Jesus appeared to him. Paul believed Jesus and became a Christian. Paul became one of the major leaders of the church and the person who was mostly responsible for spreading the message of Jesus to people who weren’t Jewish.

There are many other stories in the Bible of people who had done bad things, or who had made mistakes, who said they were sorry and turned back to the ways of God who God used to do major things.

There are times in our lives too where we need to say “I’m sorry” and try again. The important thing to remember is that even though we make mistakes and even if we sometimes do things we know are wrong, God still loves us and is ready for us to come back and try again.

There are two cards and an envelope with this lesson. On one card write or draw a picture of something that you are sorry for. On the other card write or draw a picture of something that you want to try to do better. Put both cards in the envelope and seal it. Set it aside or ask someone to hold it for you. In six months or so, open it and see what you think and how things have changed.