

date: **5/28/17**

# REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

## Day of Atonement: Remembering and Celebrating God's Righteousness

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

*Crunch.* It's a terrible feeling—that moment you realize you've backed into another car. Pulling out of my friend's driveway in reverse, I hadn't even noticed the blue car parked on the street. My stomach dropped as I got out of my car and saw her neighbor looking at his car and assessing the damage: a pumpkin-sized dent in the door. "Sir, I am so sorry," I said. "I'll pay for everything."

He looked at his car for a few moments. Then he turned to me and said, "You know what? Don't worry about it. These things happen. We've been thinking about getting a new car anyway." My jaw dropped. I protested—there was nothing wrong with his car, and he could certainly sell it for good money. But he refused, assuring me that it was okay. I drove away that day shaking my head. The dent had been my fault, but I had left the situation scot-free. My car hadn't even been damaged.

That situation comes back to me when I think about God's grace toward me, a sinner. I deserved the consequences of my sin—the punishment it should have brought. But through the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, God washed all of my sins away and calls me righteous! Praise Him for His plan to atone for the sins of the world through Jesus.

*Kelly Goddard*  
HRock Church

### Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

#### **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

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

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.

## SMALL GROUP SECTION

# EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's biblical feast or festival.*

## Carrying Sins Away

Invite the children to take part in this activity to get them thinking about the Day of Atonement tradition of a scapegoat carrying away the Israelites' sins.

### SUPPLIES

- Rocks (small or medium-sized, 15–20)
- Permanent marker
- Masking or painter's tape
- Bucket (big enough to hold rocks)
- Stopwatch or timer

### SET UP

Clear a space in the room, and use masking or painter's tape to create short start and finish lines on either side. Write "sin" on each rock, and place the rocks at the start line. Place the bucket at the finish line.

### RELATE

**The Day of Atonement was a very serious day for the Jews. During this day, the high priest sacrificed**

an animal for the sins of the people and brought the animal's blood into the Holy of Holies. The Jewish people also rested, fasted, and prayed. Every time Israel celebrated the Day of Atonement, a goat, called the scapegoat, would be selected. The high priest would place his hands on this goat's head and symbolically cast all of Israel's sins onto the goat. Then they would take that goat to the edge of town and send it out into the desert as a way of remembering that God was taking Israel's sins away and making the people holy.

### Safety Tip

Make sure the children keep their shoes on for this activity. A rock dropped on a bare foot could be painful!

Tell the children they're going to play a game in which they'll see how many rocks they can get into the bucket in one minute. Have the kids line up, single file, at the start line next to the rocks. On your signal, the first child should take a rock, place it between his knees, and walk toward the bucket without dropping the rock. Once he gets to the bucket, he should drop the rock into the bucket, and then the next child in line can go. The child who just went can go to the back of the line. If a child drops her rock, she must go back to the start line and try again. Stop the game after one minute and count the rocks. Play a few more rounds, if time allows.

## LARGE GROUP

SECTION

# REMEMBER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Through a sequence of traditions and play, children are given the opportunity to pause and remember who God is.*

## Traditions and Remember Verse

### SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse 10–12 animation](#) (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

### RELATE

After everyone gathers as a large group, open with Traditions. During Traditions, you're helping the children work toward a common goal and giving them mementos to celebrate accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse, inviting friends to church, or bringing their Bibles. Once children receive their mementos, have them put the objects in the designated container. Once kids fill the container, hold a celebration.

If your kids fill a clear container or build a structure as part of a Tradition, give out simple foods (e.g., pretzels or animal crackers) if you eat together on Remember & Celebrate weekends. Save the more extensive party for when they complete their goal.

Recall the Remember Verses from the previous weeks. Lessons 6–9:

**The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. Psalm 145:8**

Lessons 10–12:

**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. John 11:25–26a**

## Remember and Play

### SUPPLIES

- Images: ZONK! Questions, ZONK! Answers (see Resources)

Note: See the How It Works document for more information.

## ZONK!

### Questions and Answers

- 1) True or False: When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people waved palms and shouted, "We love you, Jesus!"  
**ANSWER:** False. The people shouted, "Hosanna!"
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_."  
**ANSWER:** Life
- 3) Through The Big God Story, God sent \_\_\_\_\_ to come down to live with us, die for us, and rise again.  
**ANSWER:** Jesus (or His Son)
- 4) Who is the main character in The Big God Story?
  - a. David
  - b. Esther
  - c. God
  - d. Noah**ANSWER:** C. The Big God Story includes many different people, but the entire story is about God and everything He has done and will do.
- 5) True or False: Compassion is simply "feeling bad" about something without acting on it.  
**ANSWER:** False. The feeling of compassion causes us to act in service.
- 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**ANSWER:** D
- 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 started to doubt Jesus

- c. Because he was afraid
- d. Because a whale started to eat him

**ANSWER:** B and C

- 8) Jesus made mud with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and rubbed the mud on the blind man's eyes.

**ANSWER:** Spit and dirt

- 9) True or False: When Jesus saw Mary and her friends crying, He felt no emotion.

**ANSWER:** False. Jesus wept when He saw people He loved crying.

- 10) Lazarus had been dead for \_\_\_\_\_ days before Jesus raised him.

**ANSWER:** Four

## **CELEBRATE//** 15 min.

Host/Storyteller

*Through interactive games and activities, children will share how God is working in their lives.*

## **SMALL GROUP** SECTION

## **BLESS//** 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### **SUPPLIES**

- HomeFront Weekly: Lesson 1 (see Resources)
- Bible

### **RELATE**

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Invite the children to hold their hands in front of them, palms up, as you open a Bible and read Psalm 16:11:

**You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

**May God enable you to walk in righteousness so that you may know the joy of His presence.**

Send home the HomeFront Weekly with your kids.