

Children's Ministry

1st-2nd Grade

Leviticus 12:1-8

March 29th, 2009

Lesson Plan:

Main Point: Even the best people are not sinless.

Basic Idea: Mary had to offer a sin offering when Jesus was born.

How we get there: The sin offering was for her atonement (v 7).

Examine Luke 2:21-24

1. How old was Jesus when they named Him?
2. Why did they present Jesus to the LORD?
3. How do we know that Mary and Joseph were poor?
4. Why did they have to offer a sacrifice? (Jesus is perfect and Joseph is not really the father, so the sacrifice acknowledges that Mary was a sinner.)

Explain to the children that Mary and Joseph brought a sacrifice to the LORD after Jesus was born, because God commanded that parents offer a sacrifice to acknowledge their sin. The sacrifice does not mean that Jesus had sin, for He is perfect. And the sacrifice is not for Joseph's sin, because He wasn't Jesus' real Father. This shows that Mary was offering a sacrifice for her sins.

Use Illustration (see below)

Mary was an incredible woman. She kept herself pure and the Lord chose for her to give birth to baby Jesus. Some people think because God allowed her to give birth to Jesus that it must mean she was sinless. But she had to offer a sacrifice just like other women. Even though Mary may have appeared better than other women, it does not mean she was sinless. The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). It is easy to tell that some of these lines are not straight. However, other lines look straight because they are not as curvy. But when they are held up to the standard, we see that none of the lines were straight. Mary may have been more pure than others but she still had sin in her life. She wasn't perfect, but she was trusting God to forgive her of her sin.

Illustration: "Straight Lines"

Draw a couple of curvy or "squiggly" lines on a sheet of paper. Ask the kids if the lines are straight. Then, attempt to draw a few freehand straight lines. Ask the kids if these lines are straight. Now, take the yardstick and show them how your lines are not actually straight. They may look straighter than others, but they aren't as straight as the standard.

- Ask the kids:**
1. Do you believe that you have sinned and need forgiveness?
 2. Do I really believe that everyone needs Jesus' forgiveness? Do I tell them?

Note: This lesson may feel very anti-Catholic. And while it is a tragic heresy that the Roman Catholic perspective teaches a sinless Mary, our focus is not to teach kids how the Catholic view is wrong, our desire is to teach what the Bible clearly teaches. By seeing Mary's sin and need for atonement, we can also acknowledge our need of a Savior as well, and that salvation comes to all people the same way. No one is sinless. Everyone needs Christ!

"Nailing It"

Luke 1:49—"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord!" The Bible says that Mary is truly blessed, however, it also says her blessing was her faith. Mary was blessed because she trusted that the baby she was going to have would take away her sin!

