



When I Mess Up!

18.10.20

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NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was *When I Mess Up!*

This parent info sheet can be used by you at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your children and help them to get the most out of it.

The 'main ideas' section of this parent info sheet has been designed especially for you to enter into meaningful discussion with your children. This week the questions build one on another.

To help your children really share what is in their hearts and minds with you, and so YOU can actively build faith and wisdom into them, when it comes to the 'Ask' points, take care to not rush them... give them time to think and respond and really show them you are listening and that you understand.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church

God bless you!



Family Ice Breaker - Ready, Aim, Remember!

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

Today we watched as *Ps Luke kicked a soccer ball at an inflatable target*. To win, he had to hit the bullseye exactly, every time. Near enough was not good enough. He got close with some of his shots, and other shots were way off...he missed the mark each time. *You might like to set up a target at home* (inside or outside), to aim for with a ball (big or small). You could do as we did and have a bullseye to aim for, or set another type of target. You will find that sometimes you can hit the mark, but not all the time, from every angle and from every distance.

We also watched as *Joshua and Elisha played a memory card game*. They turned over 2 cards at a time to see what they were and tried to remember what they had seen as they took turns in finding matching cards. *You might like to play the memory card game at home*. You could do as we did and use a big deck, or you can use a memory game deck, or just a regular deck. You could also create your own memory card game by drawing symbols on pieces of paper.

Whatever you do, have fun! And *remember* - you won't always *hit the mark* but *Jesus loves you!*



Scripture Memory Verses - to read and memorise at meal times

[use any version you like; we have provided the Amplified Version (AMP) in the Scripture readings in the family discussion notes as it has built into it much explanation. For memorisation (below) we have provided the simpler *New Living Translation (NLT)*]

Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Hebrews 8:12

And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.

Lamentations 3:23

Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Discussion introduction:

Ask: Do you remember watching Ps Luke kicking the soccer ball?

If YES, ask: Do you remember what he was trying to do? [hit the middle of the bullseye]

Ask: Did he do it? [No]

Say: Ps Luke kept missing the mark. He tried many times but he just kept missing. It can be like that with following Jesus - we have trouble doing it perfectly.

Scripture: Romans 3:23

Say: In Hebrews 3:23 it says: **all have sinned and continually fall short of the glory of God**

Ask: Have you ever noticed that a lot of the time when you try and follow Jesus perfectly, you end up messing up and missing the mark? [Yes, we all do!]

Say: That's exactly what sin is. In the Bible the word SIN comes from a Greek word HAMARTIA. It's actually a term that was used in archery when an arrow missed its target. It's like when Ps Luke missed the Bullseye with the soccer ball.

Ask: Does that mean God wants us to become really good at soccer and archery? [NO! it is just an example/analogy, that is not to say God doesn't enjoy seeing us become good at things and have fun, it is just not the main point.]

Say: God knows we can understand what missing a mark is with an arrow or a ball and He uses this example to help us to understand what it is to miss His mark/standard in how we live our life.

Ask: So, what is He talking about if He is not talking about arrows and balls hitting targets?

Say: It is about God's glorious standard for human beings. He made us to be very good and along the way we stopped being very good. We wanted to decide on our own ways and standards. We needed Jesus to come and show us what very good is. Jesus was so very good that He was perfect.

Ask: Is it just about what we do and don't do? [NO!]

Say: No. It is about how we believe in God in our heart/spirit, how we think with our mind and our feelings, and it is about our words (how we speak) and how we use our bodies. The bullseye that God wants us to aim for is JESUS - he wants us to be like Jesus, and do what Jesus would want us to do.

Ask: What's the problem with that? [we can't do it, not all the time and everywhere]

Say: None of us can hit that bullseye every time. No matter how hard we try, we can't reach (and keep reaching) God's very high standard.

Ask: What's God's very high standard? [being like Jesus in how we believe with our heart, think with our mind, and act with our body]

Ask: Is it just being really good at being religious and following rules? [NO! it is about what is in our heart and how we live out our faith with the Holy Spirit helping us]

Ask: Should we be feeling really sad about not being able to always reach this high standard - should we just give up? [NO! God sees our heart and our effort and He chooses to forgive us when we decide to be more like Jesus. He knows how hard it is for us, and He wants to help us.]

Say: We can feel happy that God loves us. He knows how hard it is for us. That's why He sent Jesus to save us and to teach us, and the Holy Spirit to help us. He sees our hearts and our effort to please Him. He knows when we are sorry, and when we say we are sorry and want to change, He always forgives us and helps us.

Scripture: Hebrews 8:12

Say: In Hebrews 8:12 it says: **For I will be merciful and gracious toward their wickedness (sinfulness), and I will remember their sins no more.**

Ask: Are you glad about this? [YES!]



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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion



Ask: What if you mess up a lot? What then? [*God can forgive me when I am sorry*]

Say: You will mess up a lot! We will all mess up a lot! But God will continue to forgive us if we keep turning to Him.

Ask: When you mess up, should you feel like you have to be sad and ashamed for a long time to prove you are sorry? [*NO! if I am sorry then I am sorry and God knows it. I never need to feel shame because God only wants me to know I am wrong so I can change, not to make me feel less valued and loved. I am VERY valued and loved!*]

Ask: When you mess up, should you feel like God doesn't love you anymore? [*NO! God always loves me and He sent Jesus to die for me so I could be saved, and the Holy Spirit to help me so I can do better. God forgives and helps those He loves.*]

Ask: When you mess up should you feel like you can't be close to God and worship Him anymore? [*NO! Sin is just a problem and God wants me to come to Him with all my problems to ask Him for help with them. When I worship God and spend time with Him He is bigger than my problems, and I can't worship God and sin at the same time!*]

Say: God wants you to do what is right, but He knows you are not perfect and He knows you are going to mess up from time. It does not change how much He loves you. He always wants you to be close to Him. God doesn't want you to be thinking over and over about how you messed up. God isn't thinking about your mistakes (the accidental sins) or your messes (the sins you do by choice) anywhere near as much as you are. He chooses to forget them as soon as you are ready to come to Him, and do what is right. God is always ready to forgive!

Scripture: Lamentations 3:23

Say: In Lamentations 3:23 it says: **His tender compassions (mercies) are new every morning; Great and beyond measure is Your faithfulness [GOD].**

Ask: When are God's mercies new? [*Every morning/every day*]

Say: Every day God has mercy for us, and grace for us.

Ask: What is Mercy? [*not getting the punishment we deserve, getting forgiveness instead*]

Ask: What is Grace? [*having the help and kindness we need*]

Ask: So, can we just sin as much as we want? [*NO!*]

Ask: Why can't we just sin as much as we want? [*that's not being like Jesus, and Jesus does not give us permission to sin.*]

Say: Every day God has mercy for us, and grace for us, so we can do better, and not worse. He wants to help us to be more and more like Jesus.

Ask: When we sin what should we do? [*Repent!*]

Ask: What is repentance? [*being sorry, deciding we have had enough of our sin, knowing we are forgiven, and choosing to do what the Bible says.*]

Ask: Can't I just say I am sorry and that's it? [*No, if we are sorry then we will want to change and we will change.*]

Say: When we are really sorry we will want to change, and we will change. We will change our mind about the sin we like to do - we will hate it and want to stop it. We will want to know more about what the Bible says, and we will want to do what it teaches us to do. We will love Jesus more and more and want to be more and more like Him. We will have a new nature and a new life that will get better and better.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Say: In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].**



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: The more we repent and follow Jesus the more we will become like Him. The more we choose to obey Jesus, the easier it gets to obey Him. We will be happier because of it.

Sum up:

Say: Say after me:

- * When I mess up I can come straight to God!
- * I can repent!
- * God loves me!
- * God is always ready to forgive me!
- * God is always ready to help me!

Let's Pray!

Dear Heavenly Father... Thank You that You love us the same when we mess up, as when we do well. Help us to remember that You are always ready to forgive us, and help us. Right now, help us to see clearly the things we think and do that miss the mark, and to repent from these things. Help us to turn our hearts towards you...in Jesus' name, Amen!

Let's Pray some more!

Ask: Is there anything you can think of that you would like to repent of right now?

e.g. holding unforgiveness against someone else, an unconfessed act of disobedience, etc.

You could set an example of repentance by confessing a small transgression. Keep it age appropriate. Demonstrate a prayer saying you are sorry and what you will do about it because of what the Bible says – be sure to thank God for forgiving you, and end the prayer in happiness.

If they are having trouble thinking of something you might like to help them with a suggestion if you are sure they have actually sinned in that way. Whatever they confess show them great mercy and forgiveness, and lead them in a prayer of accepting God's forgiveness and asking for help to no longer do the sin. This must not become an embarrassing or humiliating situation for kids so you may choose to make any confrontation of sin a private conversation.