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Grace in Action

We need God's forgiveness when we fail Him.

POWER TEXT

"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 26
- Mark 14
- Luke 22
- John 18
- *The Desire of Ages*, chaps. 75, 76, pp. 698-722
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 78-87
- student story on page 142 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 7, Nature of Humanity
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and the Resurrection of Christ
- No. 4, God the Son

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that though they make mistakes, Jesus still welcomes them into His family.
- **Feel** grateful to Jesus for His understanding and encouragement.
- **Respond** by following Jesus' advice and encouraging their friends.

Failures Forgiven



Like Jesus,
we can forgive
and encourage
our friends
even when
they fail us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus spends three and a half years preparing His disciples for ministry. Nevertheless, they still have faults that sometimes stop them from doing what is right. Judas's covetousness leads him to betray the Savior, yet Jesus treats him with mercy and gives him every opportunity to change his behavior. During the Last Supper, Jesus tells Peter that he will deny Him, but gives him the assurance that He will pray for him. Jesus knows the individual weaknesses of each of the 12. They discuss who will be the greatest. They sleep in the Garden of Gethsemane instead of praying for power to do right. Finally they abandon Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus encourages them to learn from their failures.

This is a lesson about grace.

We can encourage those in our community to learn from their mistakes and to reach out to Jesus for help.

Teacher Enrichment

"Judas had naturally a strong love for money, but he had not always been corrupt enough to do such a deed as this. He had fostered the evil spirit of avarice until it had become the ruling motive of his life. The love of mammon overbalanced his love for Christ. Through becoming the slave of one vice he gave himself to Satan, to be driven to any lengths in sin" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 716).

"Even after he had twice pledged himself to betray the Savior, there was opportunity for repentance. At the Passover supper Jesus proved His divinity by revealing the traitor's purpose. He tenderly included Judas in the ministry to the disciples. But the last appeal of love was unheeded" (*ibid*, p. 720).

Is there anything in my life that is in danger of eclipsing my love for Jesus? Am I willing to stop right now and renew my acceptance of His love and grace in my life?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and debrief students on the previous lesson to help them see the chronological continuity of

the Bible stories from one week to another. Then ask students to share a few things they learned from their study of the current lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find most helpful?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. <i>Encouragement Thermometer</i> (see p. 136) B. <i>Leaving Your Mark</i> (see p. 136)	paper thermometer (p.151), pens piece of wood, nails, hammer, and nail puller
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	(see p. 137)	songbooks, world map, push pins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story (see p. 138) Experiencing the Story (see p. 138) Exploring the Bible (see p. 139)	Bibles, paper and markers (optional) Bibles, board and marker, paper, pens
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	<i>Scenarios</i> (see p. 139)	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	<i>Encouragement Cards</i> (see p. 140)	colored paper, pens or markers
* Closing		A. Prayer (see p. 140) B. Parents' Page (see p. 140) C. Next Week's Lesson (see p. 140)	

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Encouragement Thermometer

Divide the students into groups, depending on the size of your Sabbath School. Distribute copies of thermometer (p. 151) and pens to each group.

Say: **This morning we are going to take our temperature. Normally we do not want the temperature to rise too high. With these thermometers the higher the temperature goes the better. To raise the temperature you need to fill in the lines in the column, starting at the bottom, with as many practical ways as you can think of to encourage others to grow in their relationship with God.** Set a time limit. Ask each of the groups to share their ideas.

YOU NEED:

- paper thermometers (p. 151)
- pens

Debriefing

Say: **Share a time when someone forgave you and encouraged you to do better next time. How did you feel? Can you think of a time when you encouraged someone else in their relationship with God?**

Allow students who know the power text to say it either individually or in group:

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32).

Have the entire class repeat the power text together. Allow visitors and students who don’t know it yet to read along. Affirm them for their effort. However, do not single out students by forcing everyone to say it, nor reprimand those who don’t know it. Sabbath School is a place where students need to feel comfortable and accepted as they grow in God’s grace.

Jesus prayed for and encouraged His disciples. He wants us to do the same for our friends.

🔊 Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.

Accommodations for students with special needs:

Allow students who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who can assist them.

B

Leaving Your Mark

Prepare in advance a piece of wood and nails. Ask a volunteer or two to help demonstrate this activity.

Say to the volunteers: **I’d like you to take a nail and hammer it into this piece of wood. As you hammer think of something that has happened to you in the past and that has hurt you or made you sad. It may be something personal, or it can be something that has happened in the community or the country. Share it with the class.** Be prepared to begin with a personal example. Say: **Now pull out the nail and tell of something or someone that made you happy or helped you feel better when you were down.**

YOU NEED:

- wood
- nails
- hammer and nail puller

Debriefing

Ask: **What effect did our nails have on the wood? How can we repair the wood and get rid of the holes? Will the wood look as good as it did previously? What effect do we have on others when we do wrong or say discouraging things? How can we help get rid of the holes caused by wrong choices or discouragement?**

If you have not done Readiness Activity A, review now with the students the power text as outlined in activity A.

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32).

Jesus prayed for and encouraged His disciples. He wants us to do the same for our friends.

🔊 Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.

Accommodations for students with special needs:

Students with physical disabilities may find the experiment in this activity challenging. Engage them rather in the discussion if you realize that the experiment would be dangerous for them.



Prayer and Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Allow students to report things that they are pleased or troubled about. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Get contact information from the adult who brought them to church. Early in the following week, send a postcard or e-mail letting the visitors know how much you enjoyed having them in your class and that you would like to see them again.

Suggested Songs

"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 15)

"You Are My Wholeness" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 90)

"This Is My Commandment" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 116)

"Make Me a Servant" (*Praise Time*, no. 79)

Mission

Use Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:

For this month you might cover offering plate/basket
a box with a map of your area
or with pictures or postcards of your community. Use this all month to collect the offering.

Say: **When we give our offerings, we are making it possible to meet the needs of other communities.**

Prayer

Select a family or situation within your church or community of faith. Discover four facts about who they are and specific needs they have. Share this information with the class and then pray specifically for the needs and challenges of this family. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Think of a time your best friend let you down. Imagine that an angry mob burst in here looking for you. How would you feel if all your friends walked away and left you to face the mob by yourself? Jesus was in that situation. One of His best friends betrayed Him, and His other friends ran away. Later Jesus forgave them and encouraged them to do what is right.**

🔊 Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.

Experiencing the Story

Divide the class into four groups. Ask each group to read their passage or passages and think of some way to present their part of the story to the rest of the group. They can do it in role play, mime, picture format, or some other way as you (or they) read aloud.

YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- paper and markers (optional)

1. Judas agrees to betray Jesus (Matt. 26:14-16; Mark 14:10, 11; Luke 22:1-6).
2. Disciples argue who is the greatest (Luke 22:24-30).
3. Disciples sleep instead of praying (Mark 14:32-42).
4. Peter denies knowing Jesus (Matt. 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62).

Give the students time to plan and then ask each of the four groups to present their part of the lesson in order. Following the last presentation, give a quick overview, tying it all together and then ask: **How did Jesus treat His disciples? What impresses you the most about the way Jesus dealt with His followers when they chose to behave badly? How can we follow His example?**

🔊 Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Place students with special needs in groups where they would feel most comfortable participating. Identify their skills and talents and facilitate their contribution in meaningful ways.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

Exploring the Bible

Draw a table (like the one below) where all can see, with the top row and texts filled in. Divide the texts among the students. Have them find and read the texts aloud. As a group, decide who is being encouraged, by whom, and why. Fill in the chart.

Say: **What do these texts tell us about the role of encouragement in our lives?**

🔊 *Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.*

Alternative Activity

Have the students find the following texts and discover a good example of an encourager: Acts 4:36, 37; 11:22-26.

Ask: **Who did you discover was called an encourager in the Bible?** (Barnabas) **How did he encourage others?** (by urging them to remain true to God) **What other good qualities are mentioned that Barnabas possessed?** (good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, brought people to Christ)

🔊 *Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.*

YOU NEED:

- board and marker
- Bibles
- paper
- pens

YOU NEED:

- Bibles

Scenarios

Divide the students into groups of three or four. Ask that each group go around their small circle and take one minute to share a time when they chose to respond positively when a friend “failed” them. After each student has shared, ask: **How did it feel to be treated this way? How is that like what Jesus’ disciples did to Him? How do you think Jesus wants us to respond when someone fails us?**

🔊 *Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.*

Text	Person Being Encouraged	Encourager	Circumstances
Deuteronomy 1:38	Joshua	God/Moses	The spies had just come back from Israel and given false reports.
1 Samuel 23:16, 17	David	Jonathan	Saul was trying to kill David.
Psalms 10:17	those in trouble	God	He cares for them.
Isaiah 1:16, 17	the oppressed	God	Because it is the right thing to do.
Acts 15:30-33	Gentile believers in Antioch	Judas and Silas	Dispute caused by Jews insisting that Gentiles had to be circumcised.
Ephesians 6:22	believers in Ephesus	Paul/Tychicus	Encourage their faith.
Hebrews 10:25	believers	One another	Day of the Lord is approaching.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- colored paper
- pens OR markers

Encouragement Cards

Allow students to share what they had done, if they had the opportunity, to comfort someone who needed encouragement during the past week.

Ask students to think of someone they know who needs encouragement in some way and to make them a card of encouragement on the paper you provide. (It could be a person or situation you identified during prayer time.) Ask them to share their card with that person.

Debriefing

Say: **To whom are you going to give your card? Would you also make a commitment to pray for that person?**

 **Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.**



Closing

Prayer and Closing Comments:

Ask God to continue to surround your students with love and encouragement even when they make unwise choices, as the disciples did. Also pray for your students to remember to encourage others in their relationship with God.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Simon carries the cross. When we help those in need in our community, we show them God's love.**

Notes

Student lesson

Failures Forgiven

Imagine one of your friends betraying you. Imagine the rest of your friends running away and leaving you to face a mob of angry people. Imagine forgiving and encouraging them anyway.

A full moon shines over Jerusalem. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus stands over His sleeping disciples. Suddenly a mob breaks through the trees.

"Who is it you want?" Jesus asks calmly.

The disciples stagger to their feet. *What's going on?* they wonder.

The mob answers. "Jesus of Nazareth."

"I am He," says Jesus. (See John 18:4, 5.)

Judas steps forward from the mob. "Greetings, Rabbi!" Judas pretends happy surprise as he greets Jesus with a customary kiss. The money that the priests gave him jingles in the pouch at his belt. Judas pulls away, but Jesus looks into his face.

"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Jesus still speaks calmly. (See Luke 22:48.)

But Judas turns away from Jesus. His mind is made up. Even Jesus' look, right into his heart, cannot move him to change now.

"Secure Him," someone yells. The mob surges forward. The other disciples are wide awake now. They can't believe their eyes. Jesus is actually letting them arrest Him.

"Let's get out of here!" shouts Peter as the mob starts away with Jesus.

Yet Peter can't stay away not know-

ing what's happening to his Master. He and John go to the courtyard outside the meeting place of the Sanhedrin.

John goes inside. He gets as close to Jesus as he can. Peter squats near a fire to get warm. As the light from the flames flickers on Peter's face a woman servant looks at him carefully. She had noticed that he had come in with John, and she sees the sad look on Peter's face. "This man was with Him," she says. Suddenly all the people around the fire look at Peter.

A shiver runs across Peter's shoulders. He pretends he doesn't understand her.

"Woman," Peter says with a cough. "I don't know Him." A rooster crows.

Someone else looks at him and says, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter moves from the fire to a wall of a courtyard.

Time passes. Another servant walks by Peter. "Certainly this fellow was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

Peter can't stand it. He feels embarrassed to be identified with Jesus' followers. The anger in his voice makes his words loud. Peter swears, saying "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" (See verses 56-60.)

The rooster crows again. This time Peter hears it. Suddenly he remembers Jesus' words spoken just a few hours ago, "Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know Me." (See verse 34.) At this very instant Jesus turns from the judges to look at Peter. The look of love and forgiveness shoots into Peter's heart like an arrow. He remem-

bers his own words of a few hours ago, "Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death." (See verse 33.) He rushes back to Gethsemane. He falls onto the cold ground where earlier Jesus had prayed to His Father. On this very spot Peter weeps with deep regret over his betrayal of the Master. He realizes that if he had listened to Jesus, if he had prayed instead of sleeping, he would have had the strength he needed to admit he was Jesus' disciple.

Peter failed Jesus when he denied knowing Him. All of the disciples had failed Jesus when they were arguing about which one of them would be the greatest. Peter, James, and John had failed Jesus when they fell asleep time after time when Jesus had asked them to watch and pray with Him. Judas failed Jesus when he betrayed Him.

Jesus knew the weaknesses of His disciples, but He still loved each of them. Later, when they remembered that Jesus had told them that all these things would happen, they realized that Jesus loved them even though He knew they would do hurtful things.

All but Judas were drawn by Jesus' love. He had tried to prepare them for the experience of His death, but they had been too focused on themselves to pay attention. They weren't ready when Jesus was arrested and killed. But they found courage remembering Jesus' words of comfort. His love and encouragement gave them hope as they were about to face the greatest disappointment of their lives—the suffering and death of their dear Master.

KEY REFERENCES

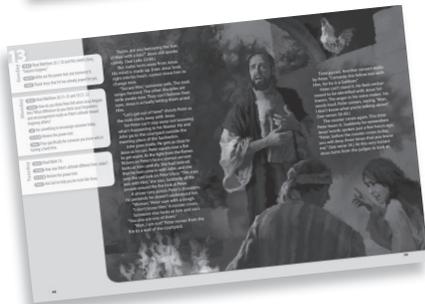
- Matthew 26
- Mark 14
- Luke 22
- John 18
- *The Desire of Ages*, chaps. 75, 76, pp. 698-722
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 78-87
- Our Beliefs nos. 7, 9, 4

POWER TEXT

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32).

POWER POINT

Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.



Sabbath

- DO** Do the activity on page 102.
- LEARN** Begin learning the power text.

Sunday

- READ** Read Matthew 26:1-30 and this week's story, "Failures Forgiven."
- WRITE** Write out the power text and memorize it.
- PRAY** Thank Jesus that He has already prayed for you.

Monday

- READ** Read Matthew 26:31-35 and 18:21, 22.
- THINK** How do you think Peter felt when Jesus forgave him? What difference do you think Jesus' forgiveness and encouragement made on Peter's attitude toward forgiving others?
- DO** Do something to encourage someone you meet today.
- REVIEW** Review the power text.
- PRAY** Pray specifically for someone you know who is having a hard time.

Tuesday

- READ** Read Mark 14.
- THINK** How was Peter's attitude different from Judas'?
- REVIEW** Review the power text.
- PRAY** Ask God to help you to be more like Jesus.

Wednesday

- READ** Read Luke 22.
- THINK** What valuable lesson can you learn from Jesus' positive attitude even toward Judas?
- REFLECT** How can you apply Jesus' example in your life today? Determine to have a calm attitude and a forgiving spirit anytime and with everyone.
- REVIEW** Review the power text.
- PRAY** Ask Jesus to help you deal with anything that is making you sad or unhappy.

Thursday

- READ** Read Matthew 27:3-10.
- THINK** What does Judas' course of action tell about the consequences of rejecting Jesus?
- WRITE** In your Bible study journal, write about things that you need Jesus to help you overcome.
- REVIEW** Review the power text.
- PRAY** Ask God to open your eyes to someone's needs.

Friday

- READ** Read Luke 22:61, 62.
- ASK** Collect 30 small pebbles or coins in a bag and tie the top of the bag. Show it to the family at worship time and see if they can guess what the story is about.
- READ** With your family, read the story from this guide or from one of the Gospels.
- SAY** Review the power text from memory.
- PRAY** Pray for each person in your family that God may help you to reach out and encourage others.