

Artist:

HOUSE OF HEROES
THEHOUSEOFHEROES.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

THE END IS NOT THE END
MONO VS STEREO

Song Title:

IN THE VALLEY OF THE DYING SUN

Study by:

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Theme

God's Forgiveness

Objective

Your group will learn that God's love has no bounds. They will discover through the video and examples in the Bible that no one is beyond God's forgiveness.

Warm Up

Before your students arrive, hide candy around the room. Tell the group about the candy. Whoever finds that most candy, wins. After they have found all the candy and have counted the pieces they found, announce that the person who found the most candy gets to take all the candy from the person who found the least amount. Have everyone sit down, but tell them not to eat the candy until after the lesson. Just leave it at that so that the person who found the most takes from the person who found the least – there is a point to this!

Transition

Ask, "Wasn't that a fun game? Did everyone have a good time? Why or why not?" Obviously, some people will be upset that the person who got the most took from the person who found the least. At that point, say something like, "How do you feel about _____

_____, who found the most and still took from the _____? But really, why should you care if you still have your candy? Let's watch a music video by House of Heroes or their song, 'In the Valley of the Dying Sun.' As you watch, see if you can see how this person was only out for himself."

The Video

Show the video. You might want to show it a couple of times so the students get the full impact of this song.

Transition

Discuss how the video made your students feel and what they think about the character in the video.

Bible Study

Split the students into two groups, and hand out the Student Guides. One group will read the story of Jacob and how he tricked his brother to get the inheritance. The other group will read the story of David and how he stole Bathsheba and had her husband killed. God's redemption is shown in each story. When the groups get back, have them share.

David (2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27; 2 Samuel 12:13-18, 24-25)

- Why do you think King David wasn't out fighting as he should have been?

(Various responses, i.e., lazy, etc.)

- What happened because King David stayed home from battle? (**He saw Bathsheba and wanted her even though she was someone else's wife. He got her pregnant.**)
- How did King David try to cover up his sin? (**He tried to trick Uriah to sleep with his wife so that no one would know that the child was really David's. When that didn't work, David had Uriah killed.**)
- How was he punished? (**The child died**)
- How did God show forgiveness? (**David and Bathsheba had Solomon, who later became King.**)

Jacob (Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-27a, 41; 28:10-15)

- Why do you think Jacob wanted to trick his father? (**Various responses, i.e., selfish, etc.**)
- What did he steal and from whom? (**He stole the family birthright from Esau.**)
- What happened because of Jacob's lie? (**Esau was going to kill him.**)
- What was his "punishment"? (**He had to leave home.**)
- How did God show forgiveness? (**God blessed him and said that he would bless many people.**)

Wrap Up

Say, "You might be wondering how this applies to you. We live in a selfish world. We want the best, we want what someone else has, and we want to be liked by others. We do things that, if anyone knew, we would really be ashamed. Maybe we have done things that we feel that God could never forgive us of; or maybe someone has done something to you or to someone close to you and you just can't forgive that person. We have seen through just two examples from the Bible that show God forgiving the selfish, the liars, the murders, the adulterers. Let's ask for God's forgiveness for what we have done and even ask Him to help us forgive those we can't forgive." After a time of prayer – give a full bag of candy to the person whose candy was taken away!

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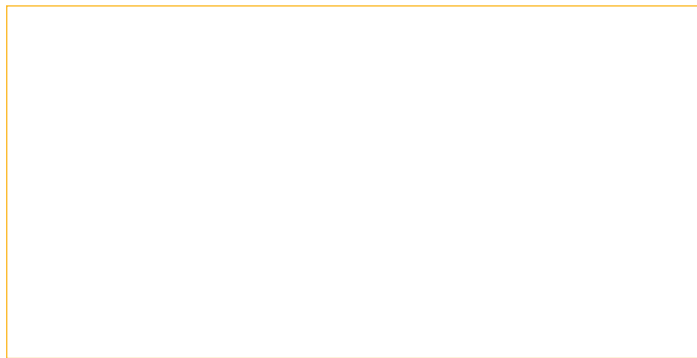
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What happened because King David stayed home from battle?

How did King David try to cover up his sin?

How was he punished?

How did God show forgiveness?

Jacob

Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-27a, 41; 28:10-15

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What did he steal and from whom?

What happened because of Jacob's lie?

What was his "punishment"?

How did God show forgiveness?