

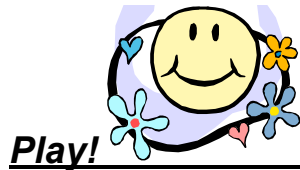
BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 1 — December 2009

This sheet is for the cell leader. It has "Today's Story" on the back of it.
Give your members and guests copies of the "Today's Story" sheet so they can read along.

Today's Key Verse:

"You will always reap what you sow!" (Galatians 6:7 NLT).

Here are some suggestions to help you have a great meeting:



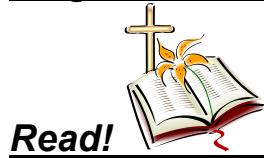
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Discussion Questions:

1. Why did everyone want to help when Jenna's mother got sick? (Mom had done so many kind things for others that they wanted to do kind things for her.)
2. Discuss the Bible verse and how it applies to both good things and bad things.
3. What are some good things you could be sowing into the lives of others? (Being kind and understanding, helping other people in whatever way they need help, saying nice things about others, etc.)
4. Pray for all the children to develop qualities of kindness and thoughtfulness toward others. Pray for the Lord to give them specific ideas of how they could sow good seeds in the lives of their families and friends.

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Kindness In . . . Kindness Out

"So you see," Dad ended, "we are all going to have to pitch in and help until Mom is well again." Dad had been telling Jenna and her two brothers, Marshall and Ethan, what the doctor had said about Mom. She was going to be all right, but it would take a while for her to regain her strength and be able to do all the things she used to do. Until she was strong again, Mom would have to rest, sleep, and eat nutritious food.

As Dad and the children talked, the doorbell suddenly rang. Jenna went to answer, and there stood Mrs. Morgan, the next-door neighbor. "Hi, Jenna," she said. "I heard about your mom and made this pan of lasagna for all of you. I hope you like it." With that, she placed the pan into Jenna's hands and walked away.

"Hey, Dad, boys," Jenna called as she brought the dish into the kitchen, "look what Mrs. Morgan brought over. Lasagna!" Dad and the boys came into the kitchen, and everyone sat down at the table to enjoy the meal. They also fixed a special tray for Mom, with a fresh green salad, a small serving of lasagna, and a big glass of milk. Mom smiled warmly when they brought the meal to her and did her best to eat all of it.

The next day before school, the doorbell rang again. This time Aunt Donna stood there. "Good morning, Jenna," she said as Jenna opened the door. "I thought I'd sit with your mother today while you and the boys go to school and your dad goes to work. I can serve her lunch and visit with her so she won't be lonely."

"Oh, Aunt Donna, I'm so glad you're here," Jenna said as she gave her aunt a quick hug. "Now we don't have to worry about leaving Mom alone."

When Jenna came in from school that day, the house was clean from top to bottom, a pot of soup was simmering on the stove, and the washer and dryer were both running. Fresh flowers were on the mantel, and soft music was playing from the CD player. Jenna was astonished. The house looked just like it always did when Mom was well and taking care of things.

Aunt Donna walked into the room, and Jenna exclaimed, "Everything is wonderful! How in the world did you find time to do all this?"

Aunt Donna smiled as she answered. "Apparently, your mother has quite a few people who love her. All day long, someone was stopping by to check on her or to bring a dish of food or even to clean the house. Your neighbors and the ladies from your church all said the same thing: 'Margaret has always been there for us, helping in any way she could. She has babysat for us, prayed for us, cooked meals for us, and done a hundred different things to show her love. We only want to give back to her what she has given to us.'"

Jenna was touched. She had always known how kind and generous her mother was; she just had no idea how many lives she had touched in the process. Because Mom had poured so much love and kindness into others, they poured it back out to her, just when she needed it most. Kindness in . . . kindness out—that's just the way it works!

BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 2 — December 2009

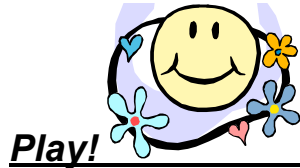
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"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother" (Ephesians 6:1, 2 NKJV).

Here are some suggestions to help you have a great meeting:



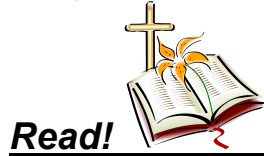
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Discussion Questions:

1. What was wrong with the way Timothy treated his mother? (He didn't obey her. He spoke disrespectfully to her. He didn't honor her.)
2. Why must children obey their parents? (God has placed parents over children as their authority and to provide them with guidance and protection. When children obey their parents, they are obeying God's Word. Obeying parents shows obedience to God and His ways.)
3. What did Drew do when Timothy refused to obey his mother and spoke disrespectfully to her? (At first, he wasn't sure what to do, but then he told Timothy that they should obey her. He set a good example for his friend and explained to him what God's Word says about obedience.)
4. Do you think Timothy listened to Drew? Discuss.

"TODAY'S STORY"

BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 2 — December 2009

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"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother" (Ephesians 6:1, 2 NKJV).

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Respect!

Drew had always been an obedient son. He wanted to please his parents, so he usually did what was expected of him. He emptied the garbage twice a week, cleaned his room on Saturdays, and helped Dad keep the lawn mowed. He did his homework, studied hard for tests, and was respectful to his teacher. He was a model child in every way.

One Friday after school, Drew went to his friend Timothy's house. Timothy was a new friend, so Drew had never been to his house before. Mom had given him permission to visit until 6:00, when she would pick him up and bring him home.

The boys were in the backyard, having lots of fun playing basketball. They practiced dribbling and making shots from the corner. They laughed and joked, and the time flew by.

"Boys, it's 5:45," called Mrs. Wilson, Timothy's mother. "You need to come in now and get cleaned up before Drew's mother gets here."

Drew stopped dribbling and began to walk toward the house, but Timothy grabbed his arm and stopped him. "Don't pay any attention to her. We can play longer. Besides, she'll call us again when we don't come." Timothy hoisted the ball toward the goal, while Drew hesitated. He wasn't sure what to do, but he figured Timothy must know best what his mother wanted.

The boys played a little longer before Mrs. Wilson came out again and said, "Timothy, I told you and Drew to come in now. It's time to stop playing." But Timothy just ignored his mother and kept playing basketball, while Drew felt more uncomfortable than ever.

Finally, Mrs. Wilson came out again and practically yelled, "Timothy! Stop what you're doing right now and get into the house!"

With that, Timothy turned to his mother and yelled right back, "We'll come in a minute. We're not through yet. We'll come when we're good and ready!"

Drew stood there, mouth open, looking from Timothy to Mrs. Wilson. This time he knew just what to do. "Come on, Tim," he said firmly. "Let's do what your mother says. She is your mother, you know. You shouldn't talk to her that way."

"Aw, what's the matter with you?" Timothy grumbled. "She doesn't care how I talk. She knows I'll come in sooner or later. It's no big deal."

But Drew knew better. "You're wrong, Timothy," he explained. "Your mother deserves your respect and obedience, just because she's your mother. When you obey her, you're obeying God. When you respect her, you're showing honor to her, just like the Bible says to do. You ought to try it sometime. You'll feel better, and so will she."

BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 3 — December 2009

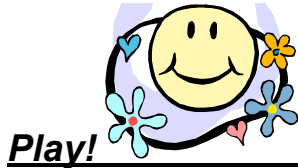
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"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow" (Isaiah 1:18 NLT).

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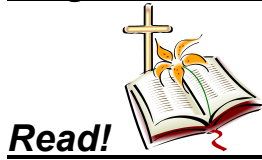
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Discussion Questions:

1. What did Christina do that was so wrong? (She stole a pair of earrings from the store.)
2. What did Mom make Christina do? (She had to return the earrings and apologize to the store manager.)
3. Was Christina sorry for her sin? (Yes; she confessed first to Mom and then repented to God.)
4. Why did Christina still feel guilty? (She didn't forgive herself. She didn't understand how complete God's forgiveness is. She identified with the sin rather than with God's forgiveness.)
5. What happens in our hearts when we truly repent of a sin? (God forgives us and makes us clean again. It is just like we never sinned! The stain of sin is totally gone.)

"TODAY'S STORY"

BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 3 — December 2009

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Whiter Than Snow

Christina was so ashamed. Last week when she had gone shopping with Mom, she had done something very bad. She had seen a pair of earrings that she wanted, and without even thinking, she had slipped them into her coat pocket and taken them without paying. That night after dinner, however, she felt so bad that she confessed everything to Mom. Mom took her back to the store, and Christina returned the item and apologized to the store manager. Then when they got home, Mom had prayed with her while Christina asked the Lord to forgive her.

But Christina had a problem. Even though she had asked God to forgive her, she still felt like a bad person. Over and over she thought, *How could I have done something so bad? What's wrong with me? Why did I do it?* And then she would ask God all over again to forgive her.

On this particular Saturday morning, Christina had just finished breakfast when Mom said, "What do you say we run to the mall this morning? I need to buy a birthday present for your cousin David. You could help me pick out something nice for him."

"Well, I don't know," Christina slowly answered. "Maybe you shouldn't trust me. Maybe if I go into a store, I'll steal something again. Maybe I'm just a bad, evil person." And with that, she burst into tears.

Mom walked over and took her daughter into her arms. She let her cry a while and then wiped away her tears. Then she took Christina by the hand and led her into the laundry room. "There's something I want to show you, Christina. I think it'll help," Mom explained. "Look at your white blouse that you accidentally squirted all that ketchup on yesterday," she continued while holding the blouse where Christina could see it.

Puzzled, Christina looked carefully at the blouse. It was spotless. There wasn't even the slightest stain of ketchup on it. In fact, it looked as though it had never been stained at all. "How'd you do it, Mom?" Christina asked. "I thought the blouse was ruined and would never be good for anything. How'd you get it so white again?"

Mom smiled as she answered. "I have a super-duper cleaner I use for especially bad stains. I put some on the spot, followed the directions, and the result is this beautiful clean white blouse." Then she continued, "Christina, when you took the earrings, it was like your soul was stained with sin. But you repented, you asked God to forgive you, and you returned the item and apologized to the store manager. When you did all that, God took the super-duper power of Jesus' blood shed on the cross for you and made you spotless again. In His eyes, it's just as though you never sinned."

Christina felt like a huge weight had been removed from her shoulders. With tears in her eyes, she squeezed Mom hard. Then, pulling away, with eyes shining, she said, "Race you to the car—let's go to the mall!"

BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 4 — December 2009

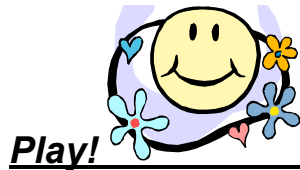
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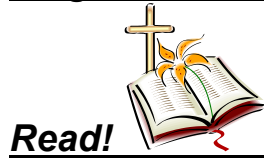
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Discussion Questions:

1. What good idea did Rebekah have? (She had the idea to make a scrapbook to remember all the wonderful things that God had done for the family.)
2. What happened when the family started writing down the things God had done for them? (They came up with more things than they had thought they would. They saw how very good God had been to them, and they were grateful.)
3. What are some of the things God has done for you and your family? (Let the children share. Rejoice over God’s greatness and goodness to them. End the meeting with a time of praise and worship for all that the Lord has done for the children.)

"TODAY'S STORY"
BCCN — Children's Cell Lesson 4 — December 2009

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Look What the Lord Has Done!

All of the Richards family were gathered in the living room, looking through old family photo albums. Laughter filled the air as the family remembered so many things that had happened over the years. There were pictures of Mom and Dad when they got married. Dad looked so funny with his big moustache, and Mom's hair was so long it hung below her waist. Then there were the baby pictures of all the children.

"Look at this baby picture of Micah!" Jonathan chortled. "Did you ever see a baby with such a bald head?"

"That's nothing," Micah responded. "Look at this picture of you. You were so fat you could hardly sit up." Everyone laughed, because no one was being mean. They were just enjoying the pictures from the past and seeing how much they had all changed and grown.

The family continued looking at pictures of family vacations, visits to Grandma and Grandpa in Minnesota, school plays, dance recitals, and countless birthday parties and Christmas celebrations. It seemed that all the important moments of their lives had been captured in the pictures in the albums.

While Mom, Dad, Micah, and Jonathan had been laughing and talking, Rebekah had remained quiet. She seemed to be deep in thought as she turned the pages of the album on her lap. Suddenly she spoke up. "I just had the most wonderful idea," she shared. "Why don't we make a family album that shows all the things God has done for us? You know, like when I was so sick last year and all of you prayed for me every night—we could have a picture of me lying in bed sick and then another one when I got well. That way we would always remember what God has done for us."

Mom and Dad looked at each other and then smiled broadly. "That, my girl, is a God idea," Dad pronounced. "Let's get started right now by writing down some of the things that God has done for us. Then we will start taking pictures to remind us of those things, and you, Rebekah, can organize them for us in a scrapbook."

All that night the family remembered so many things God had done for them. They remembered when they had asked God to bless them with a bigger house, and He had done so. They thought about the time when the house on the left of them and the house on the right of them had flooded, but the water had stopped right at their front door. They remembered praying for \$1,000 to give to an orphanage in China and how God had miraculously provided the money. On and on, the family remembered. When they finally stopped, they had written down more than 50 specific things that they remembered God doing for them!

The family was amazed. "Look what the Lord has done," Mom whispered in astonishment. "He has been so good to us."

"Yes, He has," Dad agreed. "Come on, Rebekah. We'd better get to the store. You're going to need lots of film to take lots of pictures because God has done so much for us!"