

Dot painting – Get some large poster paper and as a group work together to make a dot painting of something that represents being sorry.

LESSON:

We need to be sorry for the things done to Aboriginal Australians because they were hurt, and are still sad today because of the terrible things that were done to them. We need to say sorry, and mean it, and then we need to ask God to help us learn how to work together so that no one misses out on what they need any longer.

We must learn from Matthew 7:12 that we are all equal, and therefore all deserve to be treated with respect, and fairness. We need to do to others what we would like done to ourselves.

(If you would like to go into greater detail in your teaching time, use the three points in the introduction for your children's lesson. It is a complicated and difficult lesson, so please simplify as much as you are able. Use Matthew 7:12 as your memory verse and source text to help illustrate our motivation for helping others.)

[Prior to this exercise, confirm that children have no nut allergies re chocolates]

Activity: Get two volunteers that have hoop around them so they are joined together. Place a chocolate at opposite ends of the room, and say they have 60 seconds to get their chocolate. Most children will pull against each other and waste the time wrestling against each other's strength. When their time is up, tell them they have another 60 seconds; however, this time they must work together to get the chocolates one at a time and then share them.

TOO OFTEN WE SEE something we want, and think the only way to get it is by using our strength against someone else. When Europeans first came, they thought the only way they could settle in Australia was to destroy the Aboriginal people. However, when we work together and share the things God has given to us, none of us miss out.

CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

kids just salvos



Aboriginal people

Introduction to the lesson:

Aboriginal people have been treated unfairly since Europeans first arrived and settled in Australia. Even today, we know our Aboriginal brothers and sisters are struggling to have a life that is filled with health, education and justice. Also, white Australians continue to miss out on the rich culture and friendship of the first people of this country.

Today, the children will learn:

1 The importance of saying sorry: While there is a lot to be done, we know that it starts with "sorry". An apology, whether it is in thought, word or deed, helps to reconcile two groups that have been torn apart by hurt and injustice. Jesus showed us this when he died on the cross. Though he was without guilt, his atonement allowed us to be reconciled with God. In the same way, we may feel free from guilt about how Aboriginal people are treated; however, our repentance on behalf of those that have sinned against them will help us reconcile and walk together again.



"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."
 Matthew 7:12 (NLT)

Being sorry in thought, word and deed

SCRIPTURE:

THEME:

giving back!

2 The importance of giving back: Aboriginal people would not ever claim to own the land, and therefore are not necessarily expecting that they "get land back". However, Aboriginal Australians are custodians of the land, and therefore need to be given the authority and opportunity to govern and make decisions about what happens to the land.

There is connection to the land, and therefore, what we do to the land is important to us all. If you treat the land badly, using it only for your own wealth and prosperity, then we are all hurt. It is important that we give back the authority and ownership of the land to our Aboriginal people. Let them be the guides for all Australians.

3 The importance of recognition: Often, Aboriginal people feel as though they are not wanted in Australia. They feel forgotten and ignored. It is very important for us to acknowledge, not just that Aboriginal people exist, but that they have an important contribution to make to us and to Australia generally. It's also true that white Australians and multicultural Australians have an important contribution to make as well; but we do this together as two friends working together to build our nation.

We need to do this in our thoughts, spending time in prayer for Aboriginal people. We need to do this with our words, speaking words of hope and life both to and about Aboriginal people. And, we need to do this with our deeds, meeting Aboriginal people, getting to know them as friends, and following through on things that we believe would help reconcile God's children together.

While this is a huge lesson, the important take away for children is that we are all God's children, and we all deserve to be treated well. As Christians, it is important for us to step up and support a group of God's children that are hurting from injustice and rejection. We must imagine how we like to be treated and then do the same for all of God's children.

get into it!

GAMES:

Charades (deed):

Have two children act out one of the actions below for the rest of the group (give them a few seconds to work out who will play which role).

Once they start the role play, they are not allowed to speak or tell people what they are doing. First to guess gets the next turn.

- Helping an old lady cross the street
- Making fun of somebody
- Listening to a teacher
- Ignoring your parent or teacher
- Stealing something
- Helping a person who lives on the street
- Going to bed when you are asked
- Not going to bed when you are asked

Explain that we show our love for God by the things that we do. Sometimes the best way to let someone know you love or respect them is to show them.

Have some fun!

Saying sorry is important!

Chocky Challenge

— Divide the children into groups (no more than 10 children in each group) and send them to the corners of the room. This corner become their home base

— Place a number of small balls or bean bags (or anything that you have multiples of) in a bucket in the middle of the room

— when you shout "go", one child from each group will race to the bucket, take one item and bring it back to their base. No other children can leave the base until the initial child is back.

— Once all of the items are gone from the bucket, children may take one item from an opposing group. Remind them not to fight over the items.

— at a time you designate, stop the play, and each member must return to their home base. Groups can count their items, and (in a surprise twist) the team with the most items loses, and the team with the least wins! Cite the words of Jesus that the "first will be last and the last will be first".

While the team that ended up with the most balls might feel like they have won, in reality, we know that they have taken from someone else in order to have their larger share.

When Australia was first settled by Europeans, much of the land and belongings known to the Aboriginal people was taken from them, often by force. Today, most of us benefit from land and possessions that Europeans took without permission. We may not know exactly what we took, or who we took it from, but we do know that someone now has less because of it – and that something must now be done to make it right.

Perhaps we can't give back land, and we certainly can't give back the lives of people who were killed in both sides of the wars. But we can offer our apology and share our wealth and, in friendship, help our Aboriginal brothers and sisters rebuild their lives the way they need to do.

Creation (thought):

Give the children two minutes to write down as many things that God created that they can think of (animals, nature items, sky, etc.). The person with the biggest list, wins.

Our mind is a powerful tool. Use it to think good thoughts, and then it will lead to good actions.

Singing with soul: '**This land is your land, this land is my land**' (watch the youtube clip to help you learn the song, though don't feel you need to use all of the verses) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeMLaQTWlGU>

Have a map of Australia and choose places on the map to sing instead of the American places in the lyrics. Write the lyrics out for the kids and then sing it all together.

Explain to the children that God made all of creation, and he is the true owner of the land. He gives us this land to share with one another. While none of us ultimately own land, it is important to recognise that we are carers of the land. Our Aboriginal ancestors have been carers of the land for tens of thousands of years, and we must respect and listen to them when they give us instruction.

Taboo (word):

The chosen child must get someone in the group to say one of the words below without using the word (or a rhyming word). They must describe the word, and not act it out (Don't feel you need to complete all the words).

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|----------------------|-------------|
| — Kangaroo | — Australia |
| — Jesus | — Forgive |
| — The Salvation Army | — Land |
| — Love | — Earth |
| — Creation | — Equal |
| — Ancestors | — Knowledge |
| — Respect | — Love |

Explain, that while actions are an important way of saying how we feel, sometimes, we need to express it in words. Saying sorry and expressing sympathy when people are hurting is very important.