Grace to the Dying Thief

Steal a Wink

RULES OF THE GAME

1. One person is tapped on the shoulder. This person is “it.”
2. Teens must make eye contact with one another.
3. The person who is “it” begins winking at people while trying to avoid detection by others.
4. If you receive a wink from “it,” you must say aloud, “I am out.” You can wait a few seconds in order to make it more difficult to identify “it.”
5. If you think you know who “it” is, you must raise your hand and identify the person. If you are correct, you win. If you are wrong, you are out.
6. The game continues until “it” is identified or there are only two people left playing the game.

Have you ever been caught doing something you knew you weren’t supposed to do? What happened?

LUKE 23:32-33, 39-43 (NRSV)

32 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.
33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

39-43
39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”
40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?
41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”
42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
43 He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

KEY VERSES: Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.” — Luke 23:42-43 (CEB)

FEEL THE PAIN

Have everyone in your class stand up and spread apart, holding your arms out to your sides without touching anyone. Now try holding both arms straight out in front of you and remain silent for one minute.

● What did you think of this experience?
● How did your arms being tired affect the way you heard the Bible lesson?
● How might this experience cast a light on the attitude of the thief on the cross?

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

● Spend a few minutes reflecting on actions you would like to confess or areas of your life in which you believe you fall short of God’s ideal. Write them below.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

● What does forgiveness mean to you?

________________________________________________________________________

COVERED BY GOD

● What does the word redeemed mean?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
“God help me live as a redeemed child of God, bringing the kingdom of God to earth in all that I say and do.”

Use a black marker to black out the confessions you made in the “Confession and Forgiveness” section.

• What did it feel like to have your sins “covered” up?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

• How might this inspire a fresh start to a new way of living?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

LOVING THE THIEF
Write a short prayer about our need for forgiveness and our need to support and forgive others.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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