



LESSON 9 – JESUS WHO TAUGHT US FORGIVENESS


Objective (Learning Outcomes)


By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Understand the depth of Jesus' teaching on forgiveness.
- Recognize that forgiveness brings peace and closeness to God.
- Apply forgiveness in their own lives through Jesus' example.
- Prepare themselves to offer true reconciliation before participating in the Holy Qurbana.

Starter

Activity: "The Heavy Bag"

 Preparation: Bring a small backpack with stones or books.

 Ask one student to wear it and walk a few steps. Then ask: How does it feel? (Heavy, tiring, uncomfortable)

Imagine each stone represents unforgiveness, anger, or grudge — how long can you carry it?

 Tell them: "Forgiveness is like removing those stones from your heart — it lightens your soul and sets you free."

Follow with this question:

> "Do you think Jesus ever carried such a burden of hatred?"

Then say:

> "Today we'll see how Jesus taught forgiveness — not only by His words but by His life."

Presentation (Main Teaching – 20 mins)

Part 1: Jesus' Example on the Cross

Jesus, in pain on the cross, prayed: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

He forgave His persecutors, Judas, Peter, and even the thief beside Him.

🎥 (If possible, show a short 2-min video clip of Jesus forgiving on the cross or narrate dramatically with background music.)

Part 2: The New Teaching

Before Jesus, people followed “an eye for an eye”.

Jesus replaced revenge with love: “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you.”

💬 Ask students: “How is this different from what people usually do today?”

Part 3: Forgiveness Without Limits

Peter asked, “Should I forgive 7 times?”

Jesus replied, “Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

➡ Meaning: Forgiveness has no limit!

Part 4: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Mt. 18:21-35)

📖 Narrate or dramatize it:

King forgives a big debt.

Servant refuses to forgive a small one.

King punishes him.

📌 Moral: If we want God to forgive us, we must forgive others first.

Part 5: Forgiveness Before Sacrifice

Jesus said: “If you have something against your brother, go and reconcile first.”

Even in Holy Qurbana, we offer peace before the sacrifice.

🎵 Sing or play the hymn together:

> “Let us all be reconciled, and prepare a new altar...”

Discuss: Why is peace and forgiveness important before Holy Qurbana?

Habit Formation

✝ “Before I pray or go for Holy Qurbana, I will forgive everyone in my heart.”

- Encourage them to silently name one person they need to forgive and pray for them.

You can lead a short reflective prayer:

> “Jesus, help me to let go of anger and forgive those who hurt me, just as you forgave on the Cross.”

Activity

“Forgiveness Chain”

Give each student a strip of colored paper.

Ask them to write one act of forgiveness they will do this week (e.g., “I will talk to my friend I fought with.”)

Join all strips to make a long “Chain of Forgiveness” symbolizing unity and reconciliation.

Hang it in the classroom or prayer corner as a reminder.

(Alternative: make a “Forgiveness Tree” – each leaf = a forgiving act.)

Bible Verse for Reflection

- 📖 “If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

— Matthew 6:14

Conclusion

Reinforce that:

- Forgiveness is strength, not weakness.
- Jesus forgave even when it hurt most.
- True followers of Jesus carry no grudges.
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End with a short prayer:

> “O Jesus, who forgave your enemies on the Cross, fill our hearts with your mercy. Help us to forgive others and live in peace. Amen.”