



The Atonement (Part One)
For groups meeting
Feb 14– Feb 20, 2016

Start with FREE PLAY [15 Minutes]

Provide small manipulatives or board games if not outdoors

*Use **PROPS** in Treasure Chest to introduce each session of **the 5 W's**:*

Using props helps kids engage and get into a weekly routine of knowing what comes next. Once a weekly routine is established, kids will know what to expect and therefore learn what is expected of them. Store props in treasure chest.

WELCOME [5 Minutes]

Take wood box with questions from treasure chest. Pick & discuss 1 card per week

WORSHIP [5 Minutes]

Choose 2 Songs from Kidz 'n Groups CD provided. Play and sing.

YouTube links to motions are provided on CD cover if desired. Kids love motions!

Pray to WIN [5 Minutes]

Take the cross from the treasure chest. Read what is on the cross to remind kids that we should pray every day. Place nearby. (Step 1 is necessary if not previously done) **Step 1:** Say “We are going to pray and ask God to help us think of one person we know, who doesn’t know Jesus.” Then pray. Pass out the

‘I PRAY’ cards. Have kids write the name of the person that God brought to their mind. Have the group pray for Jesus to win the heart of each person by believing the gospel. Review what the gospel is if needed. Prayer time can be done as a group or by one person praying for all. **Step 2:** Pass cards with names (or a drawing of the person) out each week and pray for the people on the cards. Occasionally ask kids for updates on the person they are praying for. Collect the cards and store in envelope for future weeks.

Treasure the WORD [10 Minutes]

Show kids the Bible and Key. Read the sentence on front of the Treasure Chest. Encourage kids to read their Bible everyday. Teach young children weekly how to find the book, chapter and verse.

For the Leader: Leviticus 16:6-10 (NiRV version to read to kids)

The abstract nature of the OT sacrifice pointing to the NT sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ is indeed a challenging one. Many younger children who are still ‘concrete’ thinkers may not fully embrace the larger picture. However, will still must be persistent in sharing the truth of God’s Holy word and allow the Holy Spirit to be the guide in revealing the gospel to our kids. Keep the focus simple by explaining that we are learning about the OT. Explain the God had not yet sent Jesus, His son to earth. Jesus had not yet died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin.

Treasure the **WORD** [10 Minutes]

For the Leader: Leviticus 16:6-10 (continued) NiRV version to read to kids

Because Jesus was the only perfect person that ever lived, he was the only one that could be our substitute or **ATONEMENT (teach kids this word)** that met God's requirement as acceptable payment for sin.

Read Outloud to kids: Leviticus 16:6-10 NiRV

Explain: It is necessary to look to the NT to help us understand why things happened in the OT. The entire Bible is about Jesus. Without looking for Jesus in all of the Bible, we can miss the point entirely! The people of Israel did not keep God's laws perfectly. Neither do we. They needed a perfect sacrifice, but didn't have one. So a priest presented animal sacrifices on their behalf. You might ask why? Let me read a verse to you from the NT. *Romans 6:23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** Maybe this activity might help you understand it better.

Finding the treasure in God's Word: Group demonstration (5 min.)

FIXING THE LUCKY PENCIL (PENCILS NEEDED; 1 BROKEN, NEW SPECIAL PENCILS FOR ALL THE KIDS)

Leader • I think I have a way to show you what I'm talking about. [*Take out the broken pencil.*] Here's my favorite lucky pencil, broken in half. It's kinda like our lives because of sin: broken. [*Use tape to "fix" the pencil.*] I can fix my pencil with tape and I can use it again, but it looks pretty flimsy. It's not the way it was before.

God gave His people rules for sacrifice to deal with sin and hold things together, but sacrifices aren't a perfect fix. The sacrifice removed the guilt, but it didn't change the heart. Just like the pencil would break again if I put the right amount of pressure on it, God's people would still sin again. And then they'd have to sacrifice again. It would be a never-ending cycle.

But in the NT Jesus comes along, makes the ultimate sacrifice because He is the only one who has ever never broken any of God's laws. Through Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, our sin is not just forgiven, it's taken away completely! The Bible says that when we trust in Jesus, He makes us a completely new creation! God changes us from the inside out! [*Give Kids the new, special pencils.*]

Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.

WORKS Challenge [10 Minutes]

Kids will use Kindness Coins and choose to accept or decline the challenge each week to 'work for Jesus' by passing on what they have learned. Be stingy with the coins. Only give a kid a coin if he or she agrees to accept and follow through with the challenge. Start each week by asking the kids that took the challenge the week before to tell about what they did and who they gave the coin to.

A challenge must be completed and a coin given to the recipient before a new challenge is accepted.

Challenge: Teacher - Today I gave you a special pencil reminding you of God's gift of His son Jesus that takes away our sin. Ask your parents or a friend if they would like to hear about why your pencil is special. Then tell them. Let them know you think they are special too. But even more than you, Jesus thinks they are so special, that He died for them. Then give that person a kindness coin. Tell them they can pass it on, but only if they want to.

End with **FREE PLAY**

***Lesson Coloring pages:** found at www.enewlife.com/ministries/small-groups/resources
Recommended DVD's: Superbook or What's in the Bible or Outdoor Play