

RESTORATION

OVERVIEW

lesson 18



BIG IDEA

Restoration is the action of returning something to a former owner, place or condition. In relationships it is putting the effort into working through a conflict and returning the relationship to a place of understanding.

KEY VERSES

1 Peter 5:10

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

MATERIALS LIST

- paper
- pencils
- markers
- stickers
- ping-pong balls
- rope
- yarn





OBJECT LESSON

Have you ever gotten into a fight with someone and continued to have bad feelings toward them even though you couldn't remember how the fight began?

Sometimes a fight is like when someone shines a very bright light in your eyes. It hurts and messes with your vision. You might see spots for a little while.



Shine a regular flashlight or phone flashlight quickly across the faces of the kids.

Did the bright light make you blink? Do you see spots in your vision?

In West Africa there were two villages called Akpafu and Lolobi. They had been fighting for over 100 years and nobody knew what the original conflict was about! Maybe the chiefs had argued? Maybe something bad had happened? Whatever it was it drove the two tribes apart and they settled far away from each other, with a mountain in between. The original argument caused a relationship blindness that continued for several generations.

Two things the Akpafu and Lolobi people had in common was their language, a language called Siwu. They also both wanted a bible in the Siwu language. For a long time the people thought that God could only speak English and didn't understand Siwu.

This desire was strong enough that a committee was formed to work on translating the bible into Siwu. Both villages sent someone to work with some missionary translators. Translating the bible is a long and slow process! It requires

looking at many ancient languages and comparing word meanings. The Akpafu and Lolobi members had to teach the missionaries how their language worked and even how to spell Siwu words correctly!

Finally, when the bible was translated and printed the village chiefs and their people were invited to a big party. There were so many people excited to see a bible in the Siwu language that they came together to celebrate with people they had been fighting with for 100 years.

For the first time the villagers were able to hear about how much God loves them. For the first time they were able to read about the sacrifice Jesus made by dieing on the cross so that they could be forgiven of sin forever!

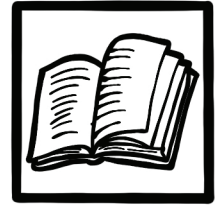
The bright light that had caused blindness was now being reflected and refracted by the Word of God.

Aim the flashlight toward the CD and reflect it back to a piece of white paper. Play with the light and the angle until the light breaks up into the color spectrum.



RESTORATION

LESSON STORY



See how the flashlight beam is transformed by being reflected and refracted by the back of this CD? The harsh white light is now broken into beautiful colors and patterns.

The more the Akpafu and Lolobi people read the bible the more their eyes were opened to the beauty of mercy, compassion, forgiveness and restoration. They began to look at the other tribe not as enemies but as friends.

If time and weather allow try to reflect and refract sunlight on to a white surface with a CD. Allow the kids to hold the CD and practice making rainbows (be sure they don't ever aim the sunlight at someone's face).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you know of any situations when people got in an argument and the bitterness lasted for years?
- Can you think of any bible stories where brothers got into a big fight and it ended in murder? (Cain and Abel)
- Can you think of any bible stories where brothers got into a big fight and their relationship was restored? (Jacob and his brothers)
- Thumbs up or thumbs down to answer these questions. Restoration requires: forgiveness, hate mail, a fist fight, police, listening, gossip, telling the truth, an expensive present, honesty, time in jail, prayer, apologizing, a full belly, asking for advice, tears, yelling, slamming the door, patience, etc.
- How is anger like a bright flashlight?
- How is God like a prism or the back of a CD?
- How is a rainbow like restoration?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Practice with the light and CD
- Do the object lesson separate from the story.
- Ask 1-2 of the discussion questions



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CRAFT

DISK MANDALAS

Make a beautiful wall hanging made out of recycled CD's and DVD's. Or make a sun catcher by hanging it in front of a window.



PREPARATION

- Collect old CD's or DVD's
- Pass out a disk to each child
- Pass out colored permanent markers of various colors to share
- Pass out rulers to share

DIRECTIONS

1. Using a permanent pen draw a line across the middle of the CD.
2. Turn the CD a quarter turn. Draw a perpendicular line across the CD.
3. Draw two more lines until the CD is divided into 8 equal sections
4. Create patterns by repeating the same line, curve or shape in each section.
5. Color in the shapes
6. Optional: After permanent marker dries use Puffy Paint (3D fabric paint) to add dimension.
7. Optional: Glue sequins or jewels for extra bling.
8. Optional: Attach all of the completed disks together into a wall hanging by taping the backs into long strips of paper. Hang on the wall as a reminder of the importance of restoration in relationships.
9. Optional: Hang by a string as a suncatcher.



RAINBOW SWEEP

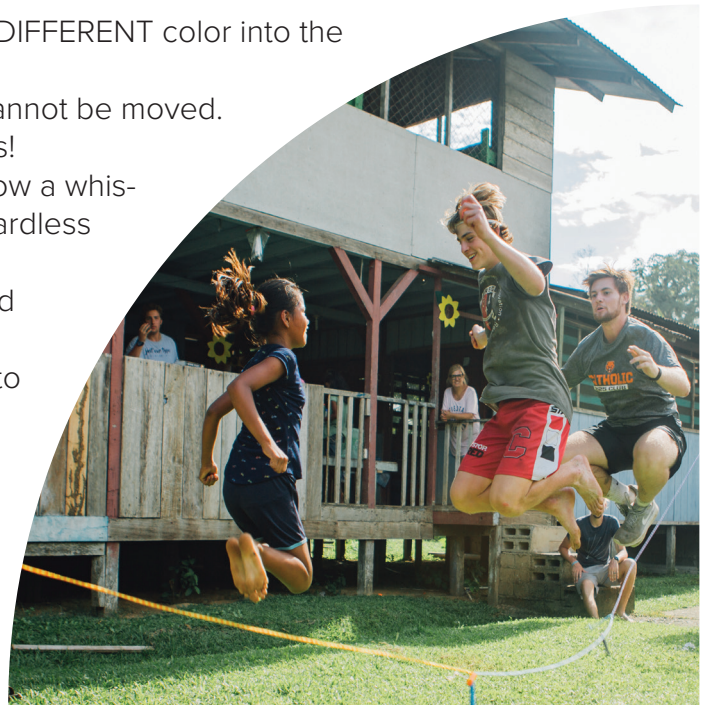
Sweep a rainbow of colors into your circle!

PREPARATION

- Place one hula hoop per team in the middle of the play area (alternatively make a circle out of rope or painter’s tape)
- Blow up a package of multicolored balloons. You need a complete set of colors per team.
- Scatter balloons around the play area

DIRECTIONS

1. Divide group into 2 or more teams
2. Each team is assigned a hula hoop (or rope/tape circle)
3. Each team is given a broom or similar object (yard stick or lumber scrap) to “sweep with”.
4. On “go” one person from each team sweeps one balloon into their hoop then tags the next person.
5. The second person sweeps a balloon of a DIFFERENT color into the hoop.
6. Once a balloon is in a hoop it is safe and cannot be moved.
7. First team to collect the whole rainbow wins!
8. Optional: If your teams are big randomly blow a whistle when players must pass the broom, regardless of if they got a balloon in the hoop.
9. Optional: Use balloons of different sizes and shapes.
10. Optional: Put a team mate inside the hoop to hold onto the balloons if air movement is a problem.



restoration

