

## Activity: Reconciliation



**FAMILY TIME**  
**TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: When we become a Christian we are changed.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (18) All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (20) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Materials: 500 milliliter plastic bottles of soda  
Freezer with a sign on the door that says "Jesus"  
Internet video: found at thekingofrandom.com "Self-Freezing Soda Coca Cola"  
Clear glasses

In Advance: Every freezer is different so test this activity in advance. Start by putting the bottle of soda in the freezer for 3 hrs. 15 min. Adjust time as needed. Start the activity so that you can pull out the soda at the correct time.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and Discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **What does the word "reconcile" mean?** *Listen to answers. To settle or resolve a conflict. To establish a close relationship.* If **reconcile** means to **resolve a conflict and establish a closer relationship**, then **"reconciliation"** is the process of resolving the conflict and establishing a closer relationship.

God tells us in the Bible that we are reconciled to God through Christ. When we believe and follow Jesus, our sins are gone, and we can have a close relationship with God. Invite a volunteer to read only the verse 2 Corinthians 5:19.

At the end of the verse there is an important point. Because Christ set the example of reconciling us to God, we are to be reconciled—resolve conflict and be close—to others.

Can you give an example of a time when you reconciled a conflict and restored a close relationship with someone? *Be prepared to give an example or point out an example from the child's life. Example: Did something wrong, received a consequence, asked for forgiveness, forgiven and the relationship was restored. Or, miscommunication, hurt feelings, explanation and then relationship is restored.*

**FAMILY TIME TRAINING**

It is hard, but it is important to reconcile—resolve conflict and keep relationships close—because this is one way our lives can look different. Different in a good way. As Christians our lives should look different from others in a non-Christian culture. By looking different, people will notice that Jesus is in our lives. We will then be able to share that we have been reconciled to God—resolved the conflict from sin and now we can have a close relationship—and that is why we can reconcile with others.

What happens if we do not reconcile—resolve conflict and have a close relationship—with others? *Listen to answers. Bitterness. Distance. Grudges. Talking bad about others.* This kind of relationship will not draw others to Jesus.

B. ACTIVITY: We are going to watch a video and then try an experiment that will help us remember this lesson about reconciliation. Watch the Self-Freezing Coca Cola video.

Let's use this experiment to teach the lesson of reconciliation.

The bottle represents a person. You. Me.

The soda represents what others see when they look at our lives.

Being in the freezer represents the time when we believed and started to follow Jesus. This is when we were reconciled to God through Jesus. Invite a volunteer to read all of 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. When we are in Jesus, we are a new person. We are reconciled to God. We are to reconcile with others. Others will see that we are different and may follow Jesus because we reconcile.

When we become a Christian (bring a bottle out of the freezer) our lives look different. (Open the cap so that the soda freezes inside the bottle.)

The frozen soda represents our lives looking different.

It is the water in the soda that freezes. The water represents the Holy Spirit. When we are reconciled to God, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the wisdom and strength to live like Jesus in a culture that doesn't live like Jesus. (Pour the ice out into glasses. Let everyone taste the soda while you summarize the lesson.)

Summary: This lesson is about reconciliation—resolving conflict and having close relationships. This is one very important way that people will see that we are different because we follow Jesus.

V. Memorize

Reconcile so others see  
Jesus in me.

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass It On: Pray and ask God to bring to your mind another family that would benefit from this activity. Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on*. You may also know a children's minister who would like to share this lesson with other families.