

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 1 • Week 3

DAY OF ATONEMENT

OBJECTIVE:

The Day of Atonement shows the need for people to be “at one” with God and far from Satan.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Play “Pass the Button” game. Give each player a plastic spoon and have them stand in a line with the spoon handle in their mouth. (If there are many players, make two lines.) Place a button in the first player's spoon and then have each child try to pass it from spoon to spoon without dropping it. Then designate a “troublemaker” whose job it is to try to disrupt the game by distracting the players. The troublemaker may not touch them or anything pertaining to the game. Then try it again with the troublemaker out of the picture.

Ask: Was it easier to accomplish your task with or without the troublemaker? Why?

Say: Satan is a troublemaker who makes it harder for people to do what is right. The Day of Atonement pictures the time when he will be removed from the scene.

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: Is this world filled with the peace and harmony of God's way at this time? Have any of you heard of people doing wrongthings? [Let students respond with some examples.] Do you think these things happen because people are doing things God's way or their own way?

Say: Satan wants people to think they should do anything they want to do. When people are selfish about doing things their way instead of God's way, many people get hurt. God has plans for a better future, however. To be a part of that future, people will need to decide to do things God's way.

Say: Many people are stubborn and proud or cocky. They don't think God has a right to tell them how to act.

Ask: Do you think God has a right to tell us what to do?

Say: God created us and everything that we need and use every day—like food and water—to keep us alive. Since He is our creator, He knows better than anyone else what we need. We need Him even if we think we don't. Our need for God can be an easy thing to forget when we are comfortable. One way to remember our need for God is to do without food and drink for a while. A day without food can leave a person feeling humble, or less proud or cocky. A humble person is much more cooperative with the ways that lead toward world peace.

Put up the word "Atonement" on a flannel board or tape it or print it on a bulletin board.

Ask: Can you say this word? [All together: Atonement.]
Can you see some small words in this big word?

Say: There are two small words: "At" and "One."

Do: Cut the word apart and explain:
"At" means being there. "One" means joined to be one.

Say: When people are "at one" with each other and with God, they cooperate and get along much better. They are also more interested in other people's needs and are less selfish. Wouldn't it be a better world if everyone were unselfish?

Ask: Do you think getting rid of Satan the devil would help people live God's way?

Say: God plans to make it easier for people to behave by putting away Satan, the big troublemaker. Part of the reason for the terrible evils of this world has been the invisible force of evil—Satan the devil (Ephesians 2:2). God plans to take away and imprison him so people will have a better chance of reconciling or becoming "at one" with God.

Ask: Will people need to repent of their past sins?

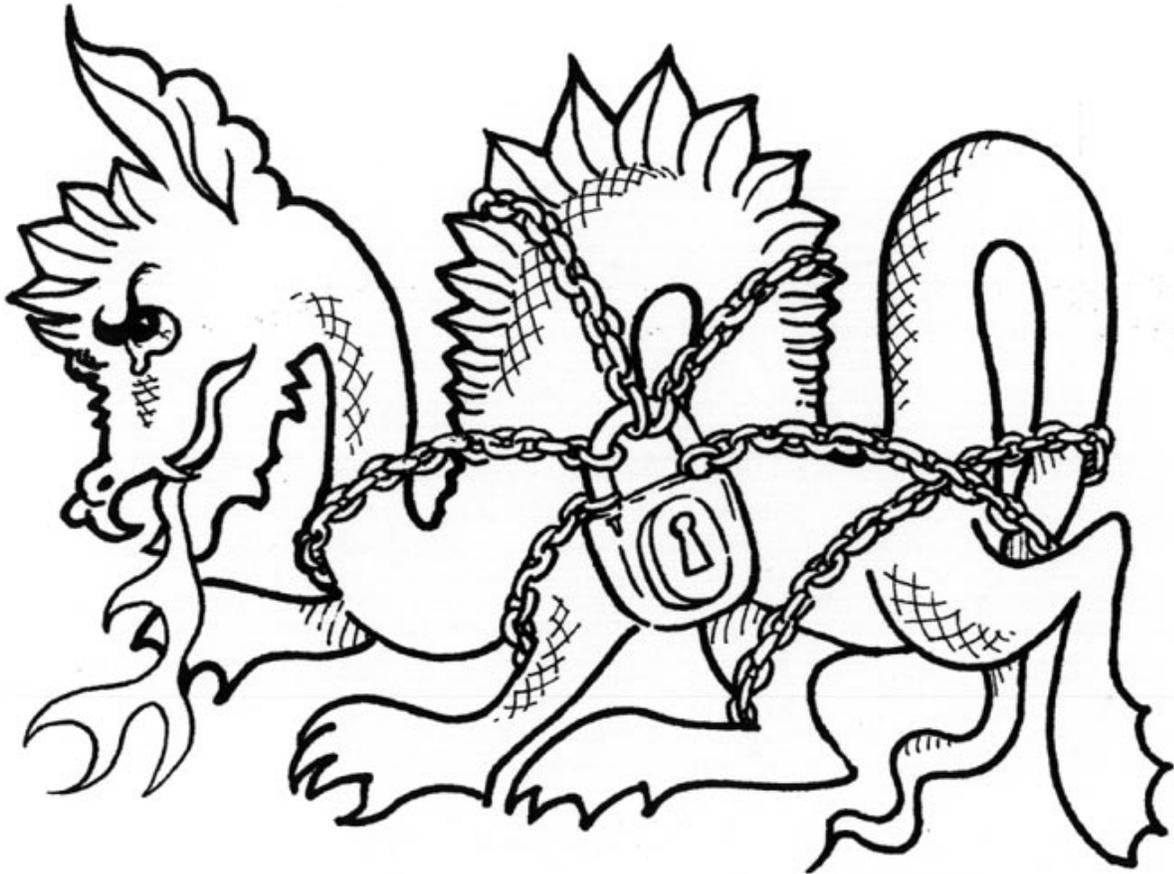
Say: Repentance—being truly sorry for bad actions and replacing them with good actions—is needed for forgiveness or "atonement" to happen. It will be a happy day when the sins of the world have been forgiven. Jesus Christ's sacrifice (we talk about that especially during the Passover season) made it possible for all of our sins to be forgiven. And when Satan is out of the way, there will be less temptation for people to do wrong. It will be easier for people to see what they are doing wrong and they will be more likely to repent. Then everyone can live in peace and happiness instead of fighting and fear.

Say: It is this time period that the book of Habakkuk speaks of: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

LESSON APPLICATION:

Ask the children to draw and/or color a large pit or hole with a lid or seal on it.

While they are coloring, read Revelation 20:2-3: "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more.... " Also read Revelation 12:3.

**MUSIC:**

Learn the song "Do You Know God's Feasts?" by Ruthie Brown and Mark Graham (see L3U1Wk3 for music and lyrics).

Alternate song: "It Won't Be Long Now" by Ross Jutsum.

MEMORY VERSE:

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

family activity

THE POINT:

People need to be "at one" with God and far from Satan to have real unity. We remember this on the Day of Atonement.

ASK ME...

Who is the big troublemaker that God will put away?

What are the small words in the word "Atonement"?

In what ways do we need God?

What kind of things did God create for our use and survival? (God created everything, like food and water and...)

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Present a battery-operated toy (something like the Eveready Bunny.) Play with it and watch it in action for a while. Then when the children aren't watching, remove the batteries and try playing with it some more.

Explain that without God in our lives we are like a toy with a dead battery.

MEMORY VERSE:

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."