Lesson 12: God Is My Righteousness

Overview:

Key Focus: Jehovah Tsidkenu; God is our righteous, but through Jesus, we become His righteousness

Bible Story: Jeremiah (Jehovah Tsidkenu)

Scriptures: Jeremiah 23:3–6, 33:16

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Sign with the words "Jehovah Tskidkenu."
- Ball or something to toss
- Calendar
- Picture of a family tree
- Name tag stickers
- Large coat

Classroom Prep:
Make two sets of name tags: one set has the Jehovah names and the other set gives the meanings of the Jehovah names. Depending on the size of your group, you might need to make more sets of name tags so each child has one name tag.

Engage:

Review the names of God Jehovah Jireh (Provider), Jehovah Rapha (Healer), Jehovah M'Kaddesh (Sanctifier/Holy), Jehovah Nissi (Protector/Banner), Jehovah Shammah (There/Present), and Jehovah Shalom (Peace).

Hold up the "Jehovah Tskidkenu" sign. **Today's name, Jehovah Tskidkenu** (pronounced sid-canoe) **might seem like a difficult word to say and to understand but just think 100% right. God is 100% right in every way. Think about things you wish were 100% right in every way or perfect, such as a soccer game or a test. What would a perfect soccer game look like?** (A perfect soccer game would be every time your team gets the ball; they score a point.) **What would a perfect piano recital be?** (A perfect piano recital means not making any mistakes.) **What is a perfect test score?** (100%) **Imagine getting 100% on every paper and test for your entire life. Does that sound easy?** (No.) **What if you missed one answer on one test, would you still have a perfect 100%?** (No.) **Perfect is a very difficult standard to maintain because one tiny mistake ruins the standard of perfection. God is 100% right in every way and His name, Jehovah Tskidkenu has a surprise for us. Let's find out what that surprise is.** Place the "Jehovah Tskidkenu" sign by the other names of God.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse and explain that the pronoun "He" refers to God and "Him" refers to Jesus. Demonstrate substituting God and Jesus in the verse to help the children understand that Jesus is the only way to righteousness.

Gather the group in a large circle. Toss the ball to someone who says the first word of the verse and that child tosses the ball to someone to say the next word. At the end of the verse, the last child throws the ball to someone to start the verse again. Repeat as time allows.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Bible Story:

Let's review what we've learned about God, His names, and His chosen group of people, the children of Israel, also known as the Israelites. As I review, I will stop and you may call out the missing word. Pause at each underlined word and let the children respond.

God created all things and made people in His <u>image</u>. We know that God is always good. If something is bad, we know it isn't from <u>God</u>, but it is from Satan, the enemy of <u>God</u>. In the Garden of <u>Eden</u>, Satan tempted Eve to eat the <u>fruit</u> that God said not to eat. Adam and Eve ate the fruit and their sin caused them to leave the <u>Garden of Eden</u> where they had walked and talked with <u>God</u>. Sin ruined the perfect relationship with <u>God</u>, but God loves <u>people</u> and had the plan to redeem, or fix the situation. God, the Son, <u>Jesus</u>, came to the earth as a <u>baby</u>, grew up, and lived a perfect life so that He could pay the price for everyone's <u>sin</u>. He died on the <u>cross</u> and three days later came back to <u>life</u>. When we believe that Jesus

forgives our sins, He puts us back in a relationship with God and someday we will be with Him in heaven.

We learned 7 redemptive names that show what God is like and how He redeems us. We found these names in the Old Testament as God showed His love to His chosen people, the Israelites. God blessed Abraham to be the father of many nations because God provided a son in Abraham's old age. His descendants were the Israelites, and we become part of his descendants through our faith in Jesus. Moses and the Israelites saw God do miracles for them and promise to be their healer. God gave the Ten Commandments to show the Israelites they were guilty of sin. Only God is holy. Through Jesus, we can be set apart as holy, and we call that sanctification. When the Israelites were scared to go into battle, God reminded them that He was with them, and they would fight under His banner. Both Ezekiel and John had visions of a future new city and temple, and God would be there. Gideon and the Israelites hid and lived in fear, but God gave His peace and victory against the Midianites.

The Israelites sinned, but God still loved them and was with them, even when they were taken away from their land as captives to Babylon. I'm sure you remember Ezekiel's vision of God being with His people in a new city and temple. This gave hope to the Israelites because their own land was destroyed. Hold up the calendar and remind the children how Ezekiel's vision was about the future. **Ezekiel wasn't the only person God spoke to and gave a message of hope. Another man was Jeremiah, who told the Israelites they had not chosen to do what was right and needed to repent. He reminded the Israelites that their sin ruined their relationship with God, who was 100% right all the time. God was righteous and holy and the Israelites were not. But God gave Jeremiah a promise for the future.** Hold up the calendar.

Read Jeremiah 23:3–6. **Jeremiah told the people that God would return them to their homeland and life would be good for them again. How do you think they felt about that promise?** Allow several responses. **Jeremiah also told them about a king who would come and this amazing king would be related to King David.** If you have a family tree or a picture of one, show it to the group. **When we write down the names of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, we say that is our family tree. Jeremiah explained that in King David's family tree, the king would be a "branch of righteousness." Does this sound like a normal king?** (No, because people aren't righteous.) **Who is righteous?** (only God) **Remember, this is in the Old Testament and talking about someone in the future. Jeremiah gave us another clue about who that might be. Jeremiah said His name will be Jehovah Tsidkenu, which means the Lord our righteousness. Who was Jeremiah saying would come to the earth to bring righteousness?** (Jesus)

God wanted the Israelites to believe His promise, so He spoke to Jeremiah a second time. Read Jeremiah 33:16. What parts of the promise sound the same? (David, Branch of righteousness, righteousness in the earth, name called "the Lord our righteousness") **Whenever someone repeats something, you should listen and remember it. God used His special name because He wanted His people to know that Jesus would come and put things right with God.**

Several hundred years later, Jesus came to the earth as a baby, lived a 100% right life, allowed Himself to be put on the cross to die to pay for our sins, and rose again three days later. Jesus is righteous and offers to let people become right with God through Jesus' righteousness.

Select a volunteer to stand in the front. Ask the group to name things that are not right to do, or are sins. Write each sin/wrong thing on a name tag and stick it on the child's shirt, front, back, and arms. **When we look at this person, we see all their sins and what is not 100% right—not even close to being righteous.** Hold up the coat. **This coat is the surprise that Jehovah Tskidkenu represents.** Put a name tag "Jehovah Tskidkenu" on the coat. **This coat is God's righteousness that Jesus bought for us when He died on the cross. He paid for our sins with His life so we could get a free gift and have His righteousness. When we say "Yes" to put our faith in Jesus as our Savior, Jesus' righteousness becomes ours and covers all of our sins.** Put the coat on the child and show how it covers all of the "sins." **Sin makes it hard for us to understand or hear God. We cannot do anything to deserve it, but we can accept what Jesus did for us.** Thank the volunteer and hold up the coat.

God is right all the time because God is righteous. Righteousness is being perfect before God and having a right relationship with God. You and I can't make ourselves perfect, no matter how hard we try. But when we accept Jesus' righteousness, then we get His righteousness, and we are able to be right before God. How does it feel to know Jesus offers us His righteousness? Allow for responses and invite children to receive salvation and Jesus' righteousness. Place the coat on children who pray and receive salvation.

Bible Story Questions:

- **How did the Israelite's sins affect them?** (Their sins ruined their relationship with God, and they were taken captives from their land.)
- **Who did God use to bring hope to the captives?** (Ezekiel and Jeremiah)
- **How do you know Jeremiah's message about the future was really important?** (God gave Jeremiah the same message twice.)
- **What was the message?** (They would return to their land and live a good life, and a king would come from David's relatives and bring righteousness.)
- **How did the message come true?** (Jesus came, died for our sins, and lets us have His righteousness.)
- **How does it feel knowing when God looks at you, He doesn't see your sins anymore—He just sees Jesus' righteousness?** Allow time for responses.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Before class make two sets of name tags: one set has the Jehovah names and the other set gives the meanings of the Jehovah names. Depending on the size of your group, you might need to make more sets of name tags. Distribute the name tags, but have the children keep them secret. When you give the signal, the object is to find the matching name and meaning but they can't use the words on their name tag. Children need to give clues, such as the Bible story or memory verse associated with it, number of letters in the name, synonyms for the trait, etc. When all matches are made, collect and redistribute name tags and play again as time allows.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Reinforce the idea that Jesus' righteousness covers our sins. Have the children look around the room for things they can cover with their hands. As they cover something, have them say "Jesus covers my sins." Give them a piece of paper or have them find something in the room to use to cover bigger objects.

Craft Ideas:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children work together in small groups to create pictures depicting the 7 redemptive names of God and their meanings. Display the pictures in the hallway and encourage the children to explain the pictures as people view them.

Worksheet:

Distribute the word search reviewing the 7 Redemptive Names of God. Read the paragraph together. Point out that the 20 words in bold are hidden in the puzzle.

If time allows, have children turn their paper over and draw a simple outline of a coat. Encourage them to write today's memory verse on the coat and decorate it.

Affirmation/Declaration:

When I said "Yes" to Jesus, He gave me His righteousness.
Jesus makes me "100% right with God."

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The world doesn't understand righteousness or accept God's standard of right and wrong. This leads to many broken relationships. Today, the majority of families are broken. Hopelessness and discouragement are rampant. Our biblical worldview offers hope that God is righteous and offers a way for our relationship with Him to be restored. Sin broke the relationship with God, but Jesus restored it. Encourage the children cherish the gift of Jehovah Tsidkenu and live their biblical worldview this week as they share the joy of knowing Jesus came to be our righteousness and put us back in a right relationship with God.

Missions Connections:
Many religions demand following strict rules, but according to God's Word, righteousness comes only through Jesus. Pray that the salvation message will be shared and that people around the world will hear and believe it! Remind the children that when they say "yes" to Jesus they are part of the Great Commission to tell people about Jesus. Their mission field is anywhere their feet take them! Commission them this week to share about Jesus with their friends.

Family Connection:
Reinforce the idea that Jesus' righteousness covers our sins when we trust in Christ for salvation. With your child, make your favorite cookies, brownies, or cake and add chocolate chips or M&Ms to the top before baking. Talk about how those can represent sins and choices that are not right with God and break our relationship with Him. Together make frosting to represent Jesus' righteousness and cover the treats. Celebrate Jehovah Tskidkenu as you enjoy the tasty treat together.

Prayer Points:
Remind the children that when they pray in Jesus' name, it is a reminder that they wear His righteousness. Invite volunteers to pray and to wear the coat representing Jesus' righteousness as they pray. Model turning the memory verse into a prayer.

Dear God, Thank You for making Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We love You and are glad You see us covered in Jesus' righteousness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

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M H R Q R H D A U H U H P I R
K S A E R E J M G E Z K N M J
I R D V I J D E W R G Q Z O N
D B E B O F H E G I L E L L F
D S S Z T H I R M J P T X A N
E R U T A N E T Z P R A P H A
S N H T H N H J C W T H M S V
H I Z E N E M K I N S I D M R
A S L A A P R P Y A A T V E G
L S B A E L P E N M G S D E B
F I X A D S E H V E U I T K F
M N C U G T Q R S S V R B U B
A E W V Z A H X K O U R E B F
U N E K D I S T R E S B B P W
G O D B D H K P S H A M M A H
R Z R I G H T E O U S N E S S

Find the 20 ***bold*** *words in the puzzle.*

God has 7 **redemptive names** that show His **true nature**. **Jehovah** means God. Jehovah **Jireh** = God My **Provider**. Jehovah **Rapha** = God My **Healer**. Jehovah **M'Kiddesh** = God My **Sanctifier**. Jehovah **Nissi** = God My **Banner**. Jehovah **Shammah** = God Is **There**. Jehovah **Shalom** = God My **Peace**. Jehovah **Tsidkenu** = God My **Righteousness**.

ANSWERS:
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