

## The Gospel According to Harry Potter Church Series Lesson Plan #4: Goblet of Fire

With Sirius Black in hiding from the magical government authorities, Harry had to go back to the Dursley's for the summer. Toward the end of the summer, the Weasley's invited Harry to spend the rest of the summer with them and to join them at the Quidditch World Cup (30). The Dursley's allowed him to go because they were glad of the chance to get rid of him early.

At the World Cup, Harry was intruded to Ludo Bagman and Barty Crouch, two men who work for the Ministry of Magic. They both led in organizing the World Cup since it was held in Britain this year. Percy Weasley, Ron's older brother works for Mr. Crouch, a man who always follows the rules and doesn't even know Percy's real name, choosing instead to call him Weatherby. One night after one of the matches, a riot of Death Eaters broke out and were causing destruction (119). Death Eaters are those wizards that were one the side of Voldemort when he was in power. It is rumored that Voldemort is going to return; therefore the Death Eaters feel it is safe to start gathering again. During their demonstration, the dark mark of Voldemort was lit into the sky. The act was then blamed on Mr. Crouch's house elf, Winky, who was then fired (138).

Since Professor Lupin retired from the Defense Against the Dark Arts position, Mad-eye Moody was asked to be the new professor for that class (185). He is a retired Auror (someone who catches Dark Wizards) and a friend of Dumbledore's. He is extremely observant and alert, not trusting anyone. This makes him useful to help protect the school from Dark Wizards and teach the children to defend themselves in this

dangerous time. He teaches the children how to defend themselves against the two unforgivable curses: the Imperius Curse which renders the cursed one in the total control of the one doing the cursing, the Cruciatus Curse which makes one immobile and the Killing Curse (or Avada Kedavra) which kills the person (213-215). Only one person has survived the Killing Curse, Harry Potter.

This year a Triwizard Tournament will take place at Hogwarts. The competition be between the three wizarding schools: Hogwarts, Beauxbaton, and Durmstrang. The Goblet of Fire will pick one person from each school to compete in the tournament. When the other schools arrived in October and drew names, Fleur Delacour (Beauxbaton), Cedric Diggory (Hogwarts), Viktor Krum (Durmstrang) were chosen for the competition (269). Surprisingly, Harry's name was also draw from the Goblet of Fire (271). His name shouldn't have been put in because he is not old enough, but since the Goblet produced his name, he too had to be allowed to compete, even though he didn't necessarily want to do so.

Because Harry's name was strangely drawn, everyone in the school seemed to turn against him, thinking that he somehow did it on purpose to gain more attention for himself. Even Ron was upset at him. It wasn't until the first challenge that the students of Hogwarts began to support him. The objective of the first tournament is to get the golden egg from a nest of several eggs guarded by a dragon (356). They can use any spell they can think of and the one who does it in the quickest time wins. Harry used a summoning spell to call for his broom and successfully captures the golden egg the quickest.

The golden egg had a clue to the second task in it, and since Harry had helped Cedric out with a heads up on the first challenge, Cedric gave Harry help in solving the

clue inside the egg. Harry discovered that he would need to find a way to breathe underwater for the second challenge and set about thinking of a way (464). During the time between the challenges, a reporter named Rita Skeeter constantly writes untrue articles about Harry, which paints him in a bad light. She also writes about the fact that Hagrid is half giant (437) which causes the students to make fun of him because giants are not thought well of among the general wizarding world. Giants, along with werewolves, are creatures that are the victims of prejudice. Harry also faces great prejudice and misunderstanding from the wizarding world because of the falsities that Rita Skeeter publishes about him.

The second tournament involves going into the lake to save someone who is important to the participants from the merpeople. They have to find them and rescue them before time is up and “hostages” air runs out (493). Ron and Hermione both are taken as “hostages”: Ron for Harry and Hermione for Viktor who has a crush on her. Harry prepared for the tournament by stealing some sort of plant that will allow him to breathe under water for a certain amount of time. Harry successfully finds the “hostages” first but waits for the others to find them as well. Cedric and Krum come just in time to take Cho and Hermione up to the surface (501). When time starts to run short, Harry takes Fleur’s sister to safety as well as Ron because he was afraid she would die since Fleur had not gotten there in time. Yet, for his unselfish act, he is docked points because he did not make it within the time limit.

The final challenge comes in the form of a maze in which the goal is to be the first one to reach the trophy. Harry and Cedric help each other in the maze, get to the trophy and touch it together in order to share the prize (635). Instead, they are sent to a cemetery

where Death Eaters are gathered around Lord Voldemort, who kills Cedric and performs a ceremony to fully resurrect himself (643). Then he tries to kill Harry, but as their wands connect in battle, a special spell is called up in which everyone that Voldemort has killed comes forth from his wand, including Cedric and Harry's parents (667). With the help of these shadows of people long dead, Harry escapes death by Voldemort again.

When he is transported back to Hogwarts, Harry learns that Mad-Eye Moody was an imposter and was really Mr. Crouch's son, Barty, who was a Death Eater and was thought to be dead (679). The real Mad-Eye had been trapped in a large trunk in order for Barty to be able to continually look like him through a Polyjuice Potion. Barty was the one that put Harry's name into the Goblet and the one who made sure that he one the tournament so that he would be transported to Voldemort.

When Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic, heard about the capture of the Death Eater, Barty Crouch, he had a dementor come into the castle and kill Barty against Dumbledore's wishes (702). Fudge refused to believe that Voldemort was back and told Dumbledore not to spread that "rumor" around. Dumbledore told all the students at the last banquet to be vigilant and careful because Voldemort had come back (723). This is the beginning of a battle between the Ministry of Magic, who refuse to see the truth and those on Dumbledore's side who want to be prepared to fight against Voldemort when he strikes.

One of the major themes in Goblet of Fire is that of prejudice. While this theme is interwoven throughout the series, it is taken up most dramatically in Goblet of Fire. In this book, prejudice is a result of misinformation and irrational fear of those that are different and in the minority. Harry is the subject of prejudice when the school turns

against him because they receive misinformation on Harry's character. Rita Skeeter writes falsities about Harry in the wizard's magazine, making him look weak.

Others are treated with prejudice because of who they are, a giant, a mudblood, or a werewolf. They are often the minority among the magic folk. Werewolves and giants are thought of with fear and disdain because they are not completely human. They do not take the time to get to know them before they make a judgment on them. Hagrid and Professor Lupin, respectively, are one of the giants and werewolves that are treated with prejudice. It is hard for a werewolf to get a job because no one trusts them; yet we have seen that Lupin can be trusted and is a good person. Hagrid has kept the fact that he is part giant a secret because he was afraid of how others would treat him. When the secret does get out, with the help of Rita Skeeter, Hagrid is teased and is so embarrassed by it that he refuses to come out of his cabin and wanted to resign. It is not until Hagrid realizes, with the help of Dumbledore, that he cannot hide from the world. There are those, like Ron, Harry and Hermione, that appreciate people for who they are, not who they come from (454).

I feel that this is an important topic for this intergenerational group because the problem of prejudice is common today and needs to be combated by the church. People young and old can help spread the Good News that God made all creatures and made them good. Therefore, we are to love everyone, no matter their station in life, their color or their creed. Jesus allowed the outcasts of the Ancient Near East into his presence and treated them better than anyone in that time treated them, showing them love and mercy. We are to reflect this work of Jesus in our own time. This church is a wealthy, predominantly white church, and needs to be reminded that we are to actually reach out to

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the poor and outcast, not just send money. We all need to be reminded of the subtle ways in which we show prejudice to others and need to combat this tendency in our own lives.

**Lesson Plan:**

**I. Introduction and Opening Remarks (5:00-5:05)**

1. Welcome all back for the fourth week of this lesson series. Have any new members introduce themselves to the group.
2. Go around the room and have each person state which of the three tasks they would most want to participate in.

**II. Exploring the Theme of Prejudice in the Book (5:05- 5:30)**

1. What is prejudice?
  - a. Definition: An adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand without knowledge of the facts. (American Heritage Dictionary: Third Edition)
2. Separate the adults from the youth. Have the adults discuss the following quotes which will be printed on a handout along with some questions and given to the group (see attached):
  - a. There are only two ways to be unprejudiced and impartial. One is to be completely ignorant. The other is to be completely indifferent. Bias and prejudice are attitudes to be kept in hand, not attitudes to be avoided.

-Simon and Schuster

- b. I am sick of opinions. Give me a humble, gentle lover of God and man—a man full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality or hypocrisy. Bigotry is too strong an attachment to our own creed of opinion. How unwilling men are to allow anything good in those who do not agree with them in all things. We must not narrow the cause of God to our own beliefs, but rejoice in goodness wherever it appears.

-John Wesley

- c. Prejudice, if not altogether invincible, is perhaps the most difficult of all errors to be eradicated from the human mind; for by disguising itself under the respectable name of firmness it passes through the world without censure, whereas open vice would receive a severe reprimand.

-Anonymous

- d. Prejudices are the chains forged by ignorance to keep men apart.

-Countess of Blessington

3. The teacher will lead the youth in their discussion of Harry Potter and examples of prejudice. Gather the youth around the white board and write the answers to the discussion on the board.
  - a. Read the article on Hagrid found on pages 438-439, paying close attention to the sections where Hagrid is portrayed negatively.
  - b. Ask the youth the following: (Teacher's note: do not use the white board yet)
    - i. If you were Hagrid, how would you feel in this situation?
    - ii. What would you do in response to this article?

- iii. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation? Someone said something about you that was not true and others made fun of you because of it?
- c. Teacher's Note: For this next series of questions, make two columns on the board: "object of prejudice" and "prejudice against".
  - i. What types of prejudice can you find in these books? Fill in the columns with the people that the youth come up with and what type of prejudice is demonstrated upon that person.

### III. Exploring the Christian Aspect of the Theme of Prejudice (5:30-5:55)

1. Bring the entire group back together.
2. Have volunteers find the following passages and read them out loud.
  - a. James 4:12
  - b. Luke 6:20-45
  - c. Luke 15:2
  - d. Luke 14:21
  - e. After each passage is read, have the class tell you what the passage said about how we are to treat those who are different from us. Write each answer on the white board, making a list of how the Bible says we are to treat others. Make sure to discuss the context in which the passage was written
  - f. Summarize by stating that Jesus' ministry was especially to those considered poor and outcast by the rest of society. Society in Jesus' day was very segregated, those thought to be different were treated as less than the rest of society and in some cases, forced to live away from the people of the city. Jesus was different in that he allowed all to come to him and was yelled at by those who considered themselves "worthy" for allowing the outcasts and the poor to be around him.
  - g. Have today's outcasts changed from those of Jesus' day? Who do we show prejudice to?
  - h. How can we reach out to the marginalized in our society? How can we prevent prejudice in ourselves? Do you know someone treated with prejudice whom you can reach out to?

### IV. Closing Remarks and Task (5:55- 6:00)

1. Close with prayer.
2. Homework: be mindful this week of how you treat others and reach out to someone you know that faces prejudice of some kind.

## Lesson #4 Handout On Prejudice

**Directions:** Read the following quotes and for each one discuss what it says about prejudice. Do you agree/disagree with the quote? How does each of these quotes promote or disable prejudice?

### Quotes:

There are only two ways to be unprejudiced and impartial. One is to be completely ignorant. The other is to be completely indifferent. Bias and prejudice are attitudes to be kept in hand, not attitudes to be avoided.

-Simon and Schuster

I am sick of opinions. Give me a humble, gentle lover of God and man—a man full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality or hypocrisy. Bigotry is too strong an attachment to our own creed of opinion. How unwilling men are to allow anything good in those who do not agree with them in all things. We must not narrow the cause of God to our own beliefs, but rejoice in goodness wherever it appears.

-John Wesley

Prejudice, if not altogether invincible, is perhaps the most difficult of all errors to be eradicated from the human mind; for by disguising itself under the respectable name of firmness it passes through the world without censure, whereas open vice would receive a severe reprimand.

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Prejudices are the chains forged by ignorance to keep men apart.

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