Forgiveness Experiment

Materials Needed

pitcher of water, bowl, ground pepper, liquid soap
option: bring supplies for each student to do the experiment

Prepare in Advance

Watch this experiment at www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-forgiveness-experiment/. Decide whether to show the video in class or do the experiment live (recommended).

New Church Concept
Forgiveness of Sin

The Lord forgives everyone his or her sins. He does not impute a single sin to anyone—and He never takes vengeance. The reason is that He is love itself and goodness itself. See *True Christian Religion* 539, 409

New Church Concept
Viewing from Good

To forgive means to regard someone not from the viewpoint of evil, but from good. The Lord is goodness itself and views everyone from good. *Heavenly Secrets* 7697, 2360.5-7



Simon the Pharisee invited the Lord to dinner. A sinful woman, who was not invited, came and showed her love for the Lord by washing His feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair and anointing them with fragrant oil. The Lord said her sins were forgiven. When we come to the Lord with love in our hearts, He forgives us too. This experiment shows how forgiveness works.

1. What would happen if we never made a mistake? (We would not see our faults or be able to fix them. Because of this, we would not reject evil or grow closer to the Lord.)
2. What is the first step to take when we see we have done something wrong? (Recognize the mistake by telling the truth and saying "I'm sorry.")
3. Let's try an experiment to see how saying sorry changes the way forward. Give each student a dish or cup. Pass a pitcher of water and have students pour water into the dishes until they are about half full.
4. Look at the clear water. How does water help us? (We use water to clean, cook, keep cool, stay healthy, etc.) Water corresponds to true ideas from the Word. How do true ideas help us? (True ideas give us an accurate picture of right and wrong that can cool tempers, clean thoughts, etc. When we do what the Word teaches our minds can be clear and clean.)
5. Pass around a container of ground pepper. Sprinkle pepper into the water and see what happens. (Watch the pepper spread over the surface of the water.) Self-centered thoughts and actions are like the pepper. They can spread throughout our mind and make us feel unclean. The woman who came to the Lord was sorry about what she had done—about her sins.
6. When we have done something wrong we should tell the truth about it, say we are sorry and try not to do it again. Pass around the soap. Put a drop of soap into the dish and watch what happens to the pepper. (It will scatter to the edges, leaving clear water around the soap.)
7. Saying we are sorry when we have done something wrong, or forgiving others when they have hurt us helps our minds become clear again. The things we have said or done do not completely disappear, but move further and further to the edge of our lives. If we try to stop doing them, the Lord will hold us in goodness, and our sins will almost disappear.

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