

Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet

PURPOSE

To help listeners better understand that when we truly repent the atonement of Jesus Christ has great power to cleanse us from sin

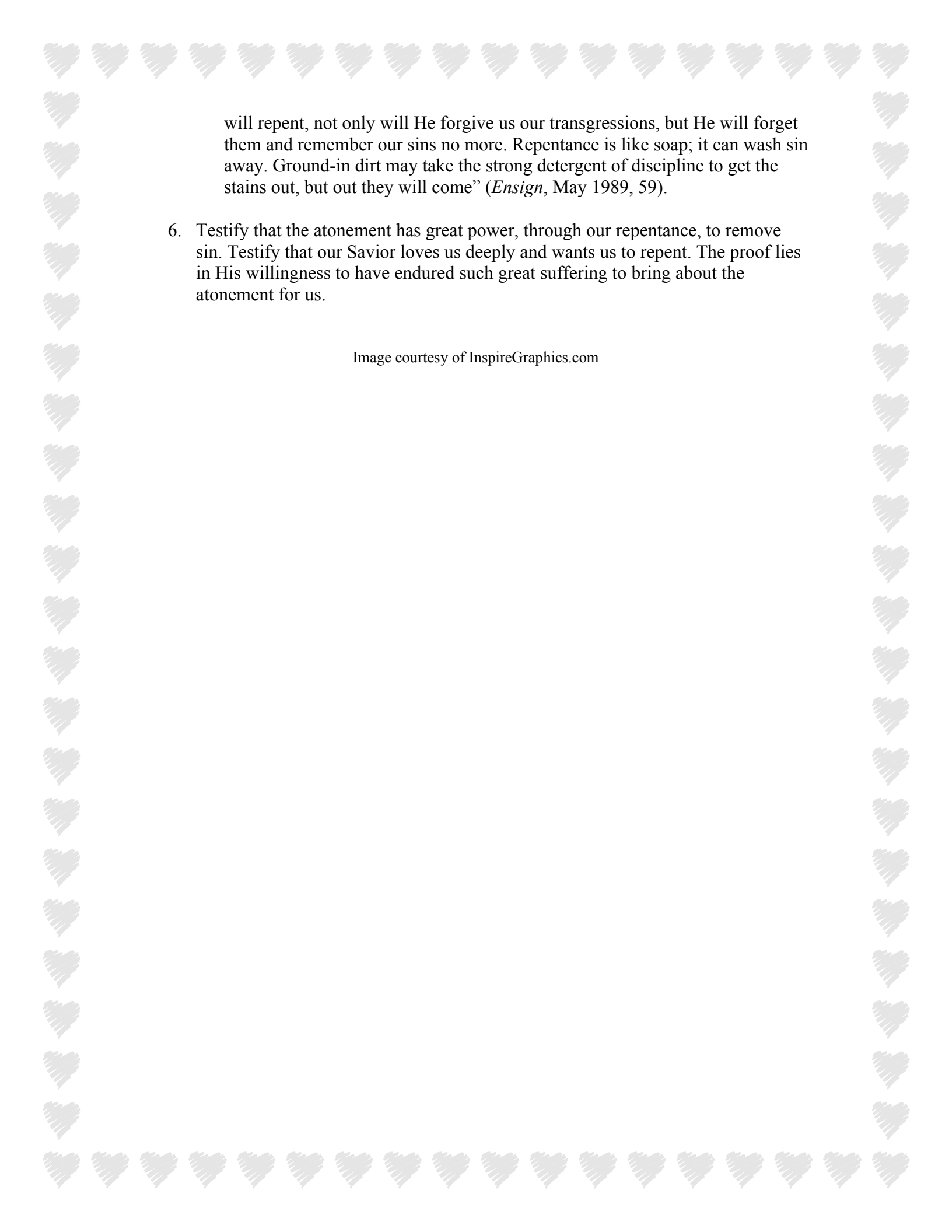
MATERIALS

- A glass of water
- An eye dropper
- Several drops of food coloring
- Several drops of bleach



LESSON IDEAS

1. Ask listeners what a “stain” is. (A soiling or discoloring that is difficult to remove) Ask them why they think sins are sometimes compared to stains. (Both sins and stains can be difficult to remove)
2. Explain that both stains and sin can be removed, but something powerful is needed to remove them.
3. Object lesson:
 - a. Pour several drops of the food coloring into the glass of water. Stir. Explain that the water is now stained.
 - b. Put several drops of bleach into the glass of colored water. Stir. (The stain should entirely disappear so that water is clear again.)
4. Explain that the atonement of Jesus Christ is powerful stain remover.
 - a. Read Isaiah 1:18.
 - b. Explain that “scarlet” is a bright red and “crimson” is a deep red.
 - c. Testify that Jesus has promised us that His atonement has the power to remove the stain of sin from our lives.
5. You may want to share one of the quotes below:
 - a. President Boyd K. Packer: “I repeat, save for the exception of the very few who defect to perdition, there is no habit, no addiction, no rebellion, no transgression, no apostasy, no crime exempted from the promise of complete forgiveness. That is the promise of the atonement of Christ” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, p. 20).
 - b. President Boyd K. Packer: “Those who make one serious mistake tend to add another by assuming that it is then too late for them. It is never too late! Never! The discouraging idea that a mistake (or even a series of them) makes it everlastingly too late, does not come from the Lord. He has said that if we



will repent, not only will He forgive us our transgressions, but He will forget them and remember our sins no more. Repentance is like soap; it can wash sin away. Ground-in dirt may take the strong detergent of discipline to get the stains out, but out they will come” (*Ensign*, May 1989, 59).

6. Testify that the atonement has great power, through our repentance, to remove sin. Testify that our Savior loves us deeply and wants us to repent. The proof lies in His willingness to have endured such great suffering to bring about the atonement for us.

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