DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2020

GRADES
2–3
SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE | SOCIAL | STORY | WORSHIP | GROUPS | HOME

252 KIDS

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BIBLE STORY

Everything Has Changed
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13, NIrV

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

BOTTOM LINE

When you forgive others, it can change them.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience
For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15 MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction
Early Arrivers
Presto, Change-O!

25 MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways
Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10 MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God
"Live Your Love" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

25 MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect
Jesus Meets Zacchaeus
Presto Change-O, Part Deux!
Coin Collecting
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience
GodTime
Parent Cue

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GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect: *an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Play-Doh®; a palm-sized lump for each kid
- Plastic tablecloth

PRESTO, CHANGE-O!

Made to Explore: *an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Predictions" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Three clear plastic cups
- Yellow food coloring
- Blue or red food coloring
- Bottle of water
- Two paper towels (ultra-absorbent paper towels are preferred)
- Small tray

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

1. JESUS MEETS ZACCHAEUS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: *an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Artificial tree branch
- Play coins
- Play food or a paper plate and cup
- Bible

* 2. PRESTO CHANGE-O, PART DEUX!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: *an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tray with cups of water/paper towels from the Social activity
- Kids' "Predictions" Activity Pages from the Social activity
- Pencils
- Extra paper towels *(optional)*

3. COIN COLLECTING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: *an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Blank Coins" Activity Page; two for each small group
- Two or more Bibles
- Markers
- Scissors

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: *an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app.**

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the moments when you and your relationships have been changed because of forgiveness. Pray that kids would take what they learn today and put it into practice, so that they, too, can experience the life change God has to offer through forgiveness.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, plastic tablecloth, Play-Doh®

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover your Small Group area with the plastic tablecloth.
- Welcome the kids as they arrive. Encourage kids to place their offerings in the offering container.
- Give each child a lump of Play-Doh, and encourage them to shape their lumps into an object that represents something that happened this week.
- As kids finish, let them share about their creations and the event they represent.
- Encourage the kids to reshape the lump again to change it into something else that represents something else that happened this week.
- Allow kids to share again if time allows.

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EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

2. PRESTO CHANGE-O!

WHAT YOU NEED: Clear plastic cups, food coloring, paper towels, bottle of water, small tray, "Predictions" Activity Pages, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the three cups on the tray in a row, rims touching.
- Pour water into the first and third cup, leaving the middle cup empty.
- Squirt 10 drops of yellow food coloring into the first cup. Squirt 10 drops of blue or red food coloring into the third cup.
- Fold each paper towel in half and then in half again.
- Place one end of the paper towel into the first cup and the other end into the empty cup in the middle.
- Place one end of the second paper towel into the third cup and the other end into the empty cup in the middle.
- Pass out a "Predictions" Activity Page and a pencil to each child.
- Encourage the kids to write their names on the page and then, on the top half, to draw or write what they think will happen to the three cups.
- Collect all their Activity Pages and set the tray of cups off to the side to be used during Groups.

WHAT YOU SAY:
"What do you think will happen to the cup in the middle? We'll check on these a little later to observe what's changed! ***[Transition]*** **In Large Group today, we'll hear about something that can make a big difference and cause a big change to happen. Let's go find out what it is!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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TALK

ABOUT GOD

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

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IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

1. JESUS MEETS ZACCHAEUS

WHAT YOU NEED: Artificial tree branch; play coins; Bible; play food OR a plate and cup

WHAT YOU DO:

- Turn in your Bible to Luke 19:1-10.
- Hold up each item (tree branch, play coins, play food or plate/cup) and let kids explain how these items represent what happened in today's Bible story.
- Let them work together to see if they can place the items in story order.
- Then read Luke 19:1-10 to see if they are correct!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Zacchaeus was basically a thief, taking more from people than what they actually owed and keeping the extra for himself. I would imagine that most people really disliked him because of his dishonesty. But then Jesus came to town. He called Zacchaeus down out of that tree and basically invited himself over for a visit. What happened after Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus? *(Pause.)* Yes! He was changed forever! Why? Because Jesus chose to forgive him, even though Zacchaeus had hurt a lot of people. And because of that forgiveness, Zacchaeus gave half of what he owned to the poor and paid back everyone he'd stolen from FOUR times what he owed! Talk about a big change! **When you forgive others, it can change them."**

[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time when you did something as a kid that was hurtful to someone else and he or she chose to forgive you. How did that change your relationship and how you behaved moving forward? Remember, keep all examples age-appropriate.)

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LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY

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EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

* 2. PRESTO, CHANGE-O PART DEUX

WHAT YOU NEED: "Predictions" Activity Pages; water cups and paper towels on the tray from earlier; pencils; extra paper towels *(optional)*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass the "Predictions" Activity Pages from earlier and pencils out to the kids.
- Instruct kids to draw or write about what's happened to the cups on the bottom of their page.
- Point out how the water has "traveled" to the middle cup.
- Encourage kids to identify the color of the water in the center cup and draw or write that on their predictions page.
- This process is called "capillary action," where a liquid has the ability to flow upward, defying gravity, in narrow spaces. It's the same process that allows water to move through the roots of a tree, up its trunk and to its leaves.
- If you have time and some extra paper towels and cups, let kids place a new set of paper towels in the cups, creating a new "row." Replace the middle cups with an empty cup:
  - Place one end of the paper towel into the first cup and the other end into the empty cup in the middle.
  - Place one end of the second paper tower into the third cup and the other end into the empty cup in the middle.
- As you talk about forgiveness, using the conversation guide below, watch what happens to the new paper towels.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Was this science experiment surprising to you? The color change that happened—creating green from yellow and blue [or orange from yellow and red]—was so super cool! When you add forgiveness, it can change things, too! But sometimes it's really hard to forgive. Sometimes it seems easier to just to stay mad. When we start to feel that way, we need to remember that God will help us forgive. Think about a time recently when someone did something that hurt your feelings or made you mad. How could choosing to forgive help your relationship with that person? *(Pause for responses.)* Why do you think it's hard to forgive? *(Pause for responses.)*

(NOTE: Although most kids will likely have regular everyday issues with siblings or friends, be aware of any child in your group who might be facing a big issue

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LIVE FOR GOD
APPLICATION ACTIVITY

EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

that one small act of forgiveness won't necessarily fix. Remind them that forgiveness is how God responds and that He will give us the courage to forgive too, even when we want to stay mad. Also, make sure you focus on the fact that ultimately, it's God who does the changing in our hearts, not us.)

"Forgiveness is a powerful thing. When someone hurts us, it's normal to be angry or upset or frustrated. And, of course, if someone is repeatedly doing something unkind, it's best to tell an adult you trust. But in situations where a sibling is annoying you on purpose or a friend has said something unkind, choosing to forgive is a much better choice than trying to get even. Just like with Zacchaeus, forgiveness can completely turn the situation around. Because **when you forgive others, it can change them."**

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HEAR
FROM GOD
MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

3. COIN COLLECTING

WHAT YOU NEED: "Blank Coins" Activity Pages, Bibles, scissors, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review Colossians 3:13 together as a group.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Pass out the "Blank Coins" Activity Pages.
- Encourage each team to work together to write down the words/phrases of the verse on their coins.
  - Each team can decide on their own how to divide the verse. The only guideline is that they must break it down to fit on 10 coins, including the verse reference.
- Instruct teams to cut their coins apart on the lines.
- As teams finish, shuffle the coins and set them on one side of your small group area.
- Line up the teams across from their stack of coins.
- On "Go!" the first player from each team will run to their coin pile, grab a coin, and return to tag the next kid in line.
- Teams continue in the same way until all coins have been collected.
- Once a team has retrieved all its coins, they work together to put their verse in order and then sit down and raise their hands to indicate they're finished.
- The first team to put all their coins in the correct order wins!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"'Put up with one another' is a kind of funny phrase, isn't it? But sometimes we need to do just that. Everyone messes up sometimes and says something they don't really mean or does something selfish to get their way. And sometimes other people's choices hurt us. But God tells us to forgive and let go if we're holding on to something against someone. Let's remember how good it feels to be forgiven. Let's choose to forgive with God's help knowing that **when you forgive others, it can change them."**

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PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER ACTIVITY

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BOTTOM LINE

When you forgive others, it can change them.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to (silently) think of someone they might need to forgive or someone they've forgiven recently.
- Encourage them to pray on their own for a moment or two.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Let's pray together and ask God to help us choose to forgive this week, knowing that **when you forgive others, it can change them.**

"God, in every situation that's been prayed for already, help each one of us to forgive. When we feel like staying mad or when we find ourselves looking for ways to get even, help us to remember the story of Zacchaeus and choose to forgive. Thanks for loving us, God. Help us to love others. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, point out the colored paper towels and encourage the kids to talk about how just like the colored water can change the paper towel, **when you forgive others, it can change them.**

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