DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2020

GRADES
4–5
SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE | SOCIAL | STORY | WORSHIP | GROUPS | HOME

252 PRETEEN

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BIBLE STORY

Mercy Mercy Me
The Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

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

KEY QUESTION

Why does forgiveness matter?

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
Just For Fun
Get Your Head in the Game

25 MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways
Welcome/Opener
Worship
Communication
Prayer

10 MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God
"At the Top of My Lungs" from *At the Top of My Lungs*
"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"Wonderful" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

25 MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect
Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Extension
Discussion Questions
Verses to Take with You
Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience
GodTime
Parent Cue

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GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: *an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Deck of cards; one for every three or four kids

2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Play: *an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Tally Card" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Dice; two for each Small Group
- Pencils or markers

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tape
- 28 Paper plates
- Print the "Statement Cards" Activity Page; two for each small group in different colors
- Create two sets of "frisbees" using the paper plates and statement cards
  - Each set is made up of 14 paper plates with a "Statement Card" taped to each plate.
  - All the "Statement Cards" in a set should be the same color.
  - *Optional: You can use actual frisbees instead of paper plates.*
- Tubs or large containers; two for each Small Group
  - Label one tub, "Forgiveness is . . ." and the other tub label, "Forgiveness is not . . ."
- Masking tape

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: *an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Picture Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart. Paper clip the four identical pictures together and place in an envelope for leaders. Each envelope should include one set of each picture.
  - *Note: If your Small Groups have more than eight kids, add extra groups of cards to the envelope. You will need a group of four cards for each kid in the Small Group.*
- Spoons; one for each kid

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Frisbees" from the Take a Snapshot Activity
- The "Forgiveness is . . ." tub from the Take a Snapshot Activity
- Bibles
- Pencils
- Print the "Forgiveness Verse Cards" Activity Page; one set for each group
  - *Note: If you have more than six kids in a Small*

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GETTING READY, CONTINUED

Group, provide two sets of "Forgiveness Verse Cards" for each Small Group.

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH 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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LIFE APP

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

KEY QUESTION

Why does forgiveness matter?

BASIC TRUTH

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

PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

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

Before kids arrive, pray for your kids by name, asking God to help them understand the weight of unforgiveness. Pray that God would soften their hearts for those who have hurt them and would give them the courage to forgive.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, deck of cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Invite** kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- **Divide** the group into groups of three or four kids and instruct each group to gather in a circle.
- **Give** each group a deck of cards.
- **Tell** kids that you're going to play a card game called "77."
- To play:
  - **Shuffle** the deck of cards and **deal** three cards to each kid.
  - **Set** the remaining cards in a pile in the center of the circle.
  - Kids take turns discarding cards and with each additional card discarded, they add to the running total.
  - For example: Kid #1 discards a five, Kid #2 discards a two and the running total is seven (5+2=7). Kid #3 discards an eight, and the total is now 15 (7+8=15). The goal is to keep the running total at or below 77.
  - Each card is worth its face value with the following exceptions:
    - A four reverses play and does not change the total
    - A nine is a pass and does not change the total
    - A 10 subtracts 10 points from the total
    - A king takes the total to 77 or keeps it 77 if the total is already 77
    - An ace adds either one or 11 points, decided by the kid who plays it
    - A queen adds 11 points
  - After discarding a card, kids announce the new total and pick up a card from the pile in the center of the circle; kids must have three cards in their hands at all times.
  - The running total must stay at or below 77; if a kid can't play a card to keep the total at or below 77, he or she get a point and the round ends.

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an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

- **Shuffle** cards and play again.
- **Play** several rounds; the kid with the least amount of points at the end wins.
- If there is a tie, **shuffle** the cards, **fan** the deck face down on the floor and **instruct** the kids to each draw a card.
  - The first kid to draw a seven wins the tiebreaker.

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MADE TO PLAY

PLAY

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2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

WHAT YOU NEED: "Tally Cards" Activity Pages, a pair of dice, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Explain** that kids are going to play a number game.
- To play:
  - **Give** kids a "Tally Card" and a pencil.
  - **Explain** that the object is to have the most points after three rounds.
  - For round one, **ask** kids to stand up.
  - **Roll** two dice and **tell** kids to write the sum of the dice in the first column (round one) of their "Tally Cards." For example: A two and five were rolled—kids write "7" (2+5) in the round one column.
  - After each roll of the dice, kids must each choose to keep going or to stop.
  - If they decide to keep going, they remain standing. If they decide to stop, they sit down and "lock" in their points for round one.
  - **Roll** the dice again.
  - For the kids who are standing when a "one" is rolled, they lose all their points and get a zero for that round.
  - If a one isn't rolled, kids who chose to keep going continue to add the numbers showing on the dice.
  - For example:
    - Roll one is a two and five. Kids record 7 (2+5) on their Tally Cards.
    - Roll two is a three and six. Kids add 9 points (3+6) to the 7 points they already recorded on their Tally Cards for a total point score of 9+7=16.
  - **Continue** rolling dice for round one until everyone is sitting or a "one" is rolled.
  - For rounds two and three, kids may choose to stand up again or to sit out for that round.
  - If kids are sitting when a "one" is rolled their points are safe.
  - Anytime a kid is standing and a "one" is rolled, they lose the points for that particular round.
  - If kids are standing and double "ones" are rolled, they lose ALL their points for all the Rounds.
  - The kid with the most points after three rounds wins.
  - *Optional: Allow kids who are sitting to take turns rolling the dice.*

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15 MINUTES

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MADE TO PLAY

PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU SAY:
"In this game you had to decide when to stop so you didn't lose your points. ***[Transition]*** **Let's head to Large Group to hear about something Jesus says we should not stop doing, even if we have already done it 77 times."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY REVIEW

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MOVE

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

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

WHAT YOU NEED: Two or three sets of frisbees, two containers, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Note: You will use the supplies for this activity for the Verses to Take with You Activity.*
- **Set** two containers against a wall.
  - One container should be labeled, "Forgiveness is . . ." and the other container labeled, "Forgiveness is not . . ."
- **Create** a line using masking tape about 10-15 feet from the containers.
- **Divide** the group into two or three teams and gather teams behind the masking tape line.
- **Give** each team a stack of "frisbees."
- **Encourage** teams to work together to decide if the statement on the "frisbee" belongs in the "Forgiveness is . . ." container or the "Forgiveness is not . . ." container.
- **Challenge** teams to stand on the line and "fly" the "frisbees" into the appropriate containers. If teams miss, they can retrieve the "frisbee" and try again.
- Once all the "frisbees" are in the containers, **remove** the "frisbees" from each container and **group** identical statements together.
- Potential discussion topics are:
  - **Discuss** any discrepancies—did "frisbees" containing the same statement end up in both containers? **Encourage** teams to debate why they put the statements they did in the container.
  - **Ask:** Are there other statements you would add for what "forgiveness is . . ." or what "forgiveness is not . . ."?
  - **Review** the statements in the "Forgiveness is . . ." container.
  - **Ask:** Why do you think forgiveness is important? What can be the consequence of holding a grudge and looking for ways to get even? Let's say someone says mean or unkind things to you. What does it look like to forgive them? *(This is an opportunity to talk about forgiveness means letting go of the need to get even. And sometimes forgiveness does result in mended friendships. However, forgiveness doesn't mean you have to continue to hang around people who treat you unkindly or be friends with people who treat you poorly; forgiveness does mean you treat people kindly even if you think they don't deserve kindness.)*

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PLAY

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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

WHAT YOU NEED: "Picture Cards" Activity Page, spoons

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Lay** out the "Picture Cards" and instruct each kid to pick a set of cards; a set of cards contains four cards with an identical picture on each of four cards.
- **Gather** the "Picture Cards" selected and **shuffle** them.
- **Explain** kids will play a game similar to Spoons. To **play:**
  - **Gather** kids in a circle and **place** the spoons in the center of the circle; there should be one fewer spoon than number of kids playing.
  - **Deal** four cards to each kid.
  - Kids simultaneously pass one card from their hands to the kid on their left, and they pick up a card passed to them from the kid on the right. This continues until someone has collected four of a kind. Kids should never have more than four cards in their hands.
  - When a player has four of a kind, he or she say nothing but quietly grabs a spoon. Once a player takes a spoon, all the other players must do the same, even if they don't have four of a kind.
  - The player without a spoon selects one of the cards and explains how the picture relates to the story.
  - To review as many pictures as possible, **keep** the pace of the game fast. Depending on the time, **play** two to four rounds and then **discuss** the remaining pictures as a group.
  - If you have a large group (>10 kids) **divide** the group in half and **play** two games simultaneously.
- Post-game discussion could include:
  - **Collect** one of each picture and **ask** the group to put the cards in order of the story. Be sure to use an example of all the cards even if the cards weren't used in the game.
  - **Ask:** Why do you think Jesus told Peter we should forgive 77 times? *(This is an opportunity to talk about the fact we don't keep track of how many times we forgive someone but that Jesus wants us to keep forgiving even if it is a lot.)*
  - **Compare** the debt the king forgave to the debt the servant refused to forgive. What was the difference? Why do you think Jesus told the story this way? *(If necessary, **prompt** kids to think about how much God forgives us and **guide** the conversation to discuss the fact the king forgave a great debt just like God forgives us greatly.)*

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LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY

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CONNECT

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

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Do you think forgiveness is a strength or a weakness? Why?
- Why does forgiveness matter?
- How do you know if you have forgiven someone? What does it look like to forgive someone? *(This is an opportunity to review what forgiveness is and what it is not from the Take a Snapshot Activity)*
- How can it help you show forgiveness if you know and think about how everyone is made in the image of God?
- Is forgiveness about fairness? What if you don't think someone deserves to be forgiven? *(Encourage kids to explain their answers.)*

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HEAR FROM GOD

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

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KEY QUESTION

Why does forgiveness matter?

BASIC TRUTH

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

IMAGINE

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

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

WHAT YOU NEED: "Forgiveness Is . . ." container and "frisbees" from the Take a Snapshot Activity, "Forgiveness Verse Cards" Activity Pages, Bibles, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Place** the "Forgiveness is . . ." container in front of a wall and place the "Forgiveness Verse Cards" in the container. Make sure you have at least one card in the container for each kid.
- **Encourage** kids to select a "frisbee" describing "Forgiveness is . . ." from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- **Ask** kids to stand behind the masking tape line created in the Take a Snapshot Activity and to "fly" their "frisbee" into the "Forgiveness is . . ." container. If they miss, they can retrieve their "frisbee" and try again.
- Once their "frisbee" lands in the container, **direct** them to select a "Forgiveness Verse Card."
- **Direct** kids to look up the verse reference on their card and paraphrase what the verse says about forgiveness. Kids can write their paraphrase on the back of the "Forgiveness Verse Card." Multiple kids can have the same verse.
- **Allow** time for kids to share their verses and what their verses say about forgiveness.
- **Discuss** the verses:
  - Are any of the verses familiar to you?
  - Are any of the verses similar to each other? Which ones?
  - Is there a verse you find confusing? (If so, be sure to **discuss** it as a group allowing kids to work together to figure out what the verse means.)
- "Forgiveness Verse Cards" include (all verses are NIrV):
  - Colossians 3:13: *Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. (This is the memory verse)*
  - Ephesians 4:32: *Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive one another, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.*
  - Proverbs 17:9: *Whoever wants to show love forgives a wrong. But those who talk about it separate close friends.*
  - Proverbs 20:22: *Don't say, "I'll get even with you for the wrong you did to me!" Wait for the Lord, and he will make things right for you.*
  - Proverbs 24:29: *Don't say, "I'll do to them what they have done to me. I'll get even with them for what they did."*
  - Romans 12:10: *Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.*

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PRAY TO GOD

PRAYER ACTIVITY

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MADE TO REFLECT

REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Ask** kids to take a deep breath and let it go.
- **Explain** sometimes it is hard to forgive others, and it can take time before you are able to let go of what you are holding against someone. When it is hard to forgive, you can ask Jesus for help.
- **Encourage** kids to close their eyes.
- **Tell** them to focus on their breathing, taking a deep breath in and letting it go.
- After a couple rounds of breath, **encourage** them as they breathe in to silently say in their head, "Jesus."
- After a couple rounds of breath, **encourage** them as they exhale to silently say in their head, "Help me to forgive."
- After a couple rounds of breath, **close** in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:
"Jesus, You are there for us! When we think we just can't forgive or we just aren't ready to forgive, You have our backs. Help us to remember to come to You when we struggle. Help us to remember the power of Your name, Jesus, and to ask You for guidance and for help to forgive others. Amen."

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