

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: We're suppose to forgive others because Jesus forgave us

Key Question: Why is it hard to forgive?

Memory Verse: *Make allowances for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who has offended you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13*

Overview: We're finishing our series called, "How Stuff Works". It's important to know how stuff works so we don't make mistakes that can hurt us or those we care about. We've already learned how our feelings should work. God created us to have them but we need to know how to control them. We've also learned about friendship. God designed us to want to have friends but we need to choose the right kind of friends because they will rub off on us. Last week, we learned about the "gimmies" or how greed works. We learned that greed is when you want stuff you don't need. Instead of focusing on our stuff, we should be happy with what God has already given us. Today, we're going to finish the series by learning about how forgiveness works. If you forgive someone, that means you don't hold a grudge against them. Instead of staying angry or wanting to get them back, you let them off the hook. Forgiveness is a gift you choose to offer. It can be hard to forgive someone, especially if they really hurt your feelings. But, we can do it if we remember that Jesus has forgiven us for lots of things. If Jesus can forgive every sin we commit, then we can forgive our friend for whatever they did. And, remember, just because you forgive someone doesn't mean it's okay that they were mean to you. It just means you don't hold it against them.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** Share a time a friend hurt your feelings. How did you respond? Share a time you hurt someone's feelings. How did you want them to respond to you?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [1 Peter 3:9](#). What **shouldn't** we do when people hurt us? What do you think it means to pay them back with a blessing?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - What will you do the next time a friend hurts you?
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. The point: We aren't perfect so we will make mistakes. The important thing is to know what to do when we hurt someone or when someone hurts us.

Answer: Because, it's hard to be nice when our feelings have been hurt. Payback seems way more satisfying when someone hurts us. Choosing to forgive can seem like we're letting them get away with jerky behavior. But, the Bible tells us that we should always forgive others. The reason-because Jesus has forgiven us! And, you never know how your forgiving response can positively affect someone who has been a jerk. Maybe they will choose to be nice because they saw how you chose to respond to them.

Bonus Questions: Why is payback the wrong thing to do when a friend hurts your feelings? What should you do instead?

4-5th: How has Jesus modeled forgiveness to us? What can happen if we don't forgive people?

We shouldn't repay evil for evil or insult for insult. We shouldn't be in the business of paying back bad behavior with more bad behavior. As followers of Jesus, we should be different. Instead of paybacks, we should bless people with the gift of forgiveness. Jesus has blessed us with his forgiveness, which fixes our relationship with God, and allows us to live in Heaven some day. So, bless others by being nice and forgiving.

Allow each kid to share. Encourage them to be specific.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities 2nd-5th

Option #1

Be a Smartie and Forgive Others Craft

- Give each kid a verse template square (pg 5)
- Allow kids to decorate the square
- Then, give each kid a pack of smarties and have them tape it above the verse
- As they work, remind the kids how important it is to forgive their friends when they mess up. Jesus forgives us so we should forgive others. It's the SMARTIE thing to do!
- As a class, come up with 3 ways they can show a friend that they've forgiven them

Supplies needed

- verse template squares (pg 5), pre cut, 1 per kid
- smarties candy, 1 pack per kid
- crayons
- tape

Bonus Activity:

Play **Fast Facts**

So who is the quickest to answer correctly.

1. Forgiveness is a ____ (gift)
2. ____ forgave us. (Jesus)
3. What's the name of the book full of God's words? (Bible)

Option #2

Forgiveness Word Scramble

- Tape the pre cut words from the word scramble template (pg 6), on the whiteboard in a random order
- As a class, put them in the right order to decode the message. **(the message is: God wants me to forgive others)**
- As a class, come up with 3 ways they can show a friend that they've forgiven them

Supplies needed

- whiteboard
- word scramble template (pg 6), pre cut, 1 set per class
- tape

Bonus Activity:

Play **True of False**

See who is the quickest to answer correctly.

1. The Bible tells us not to forgive. (F)
2. Jesus forgave us. (T)
3. Forgiveness is a gift. (T)

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. Forgiveness means you _____ not to pay someone back for hurting you.
2. Forgiveness is a _____.
3. We're suppose to _____ others because _____ forgave us.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. Share a time a friend hurt your feelings. How did you respond? Share a time you hurt someone's feelings. How did you want them to respond to you?
2. Why do we want to get back at our friends when they hurt us?
3. Why is forgiveness a gift?
4. Why is Jesus a good model for forgiveness?
5. Read [1 Peter 3:9](#). What **shouldn't** we do when people hurt us? What do you think it means to pay them back with a blessing?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

"Make allowances for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who has offended you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

Colossians 3:13

Bonus: Read these additional passages as a family this week

- Read [Matthew 18:21-22](#). Why do you think Jesus responded with a math problem! (there should be no limit to forgiveness!)
- Read [1 Thessalonians 5:15](#). How can you be good to your friends?
- Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-5](#). What does it mean "to keep no record of wrongs?"

Parent Signature _____



ACTIVITY #1

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 18:21-22



A P T Z U H W J E S N N M H H
 A W U K G T K E S X G X Q D X
 H T K G T W U S M A N Y I D B
 E K A J I B F U B C G E U K G
 A F S T I M E S U K O O C U W
 M W K W N B O T G P E T E R A
 O P E R G R E L P W W O X H T
 F A D X B R O T H E R G H X E
 K O N A F X S D C R Z L Q W Y
 X E R S V Q J L E I L O Z R Q
 E Z B G W Q D Q D V O R K P H
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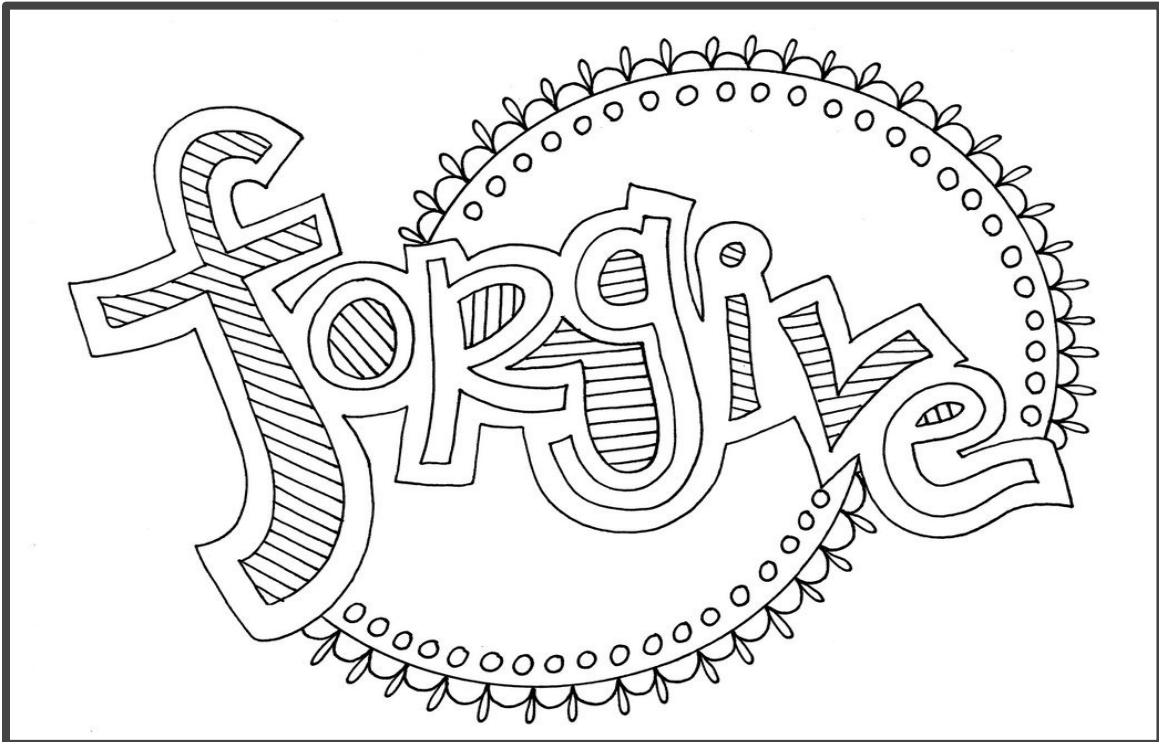
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|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| PETER | ANSWERED | MANY | JESUS |
| SINS | FORGIVE | HOW | LORD |
| ASKED | TIMES | BROTHER | SEVEN |

BIG IDEA →

KEY QUESTION →

MEMORY VERSE →

COLOR



Be a SMARTIE, forgive others

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Colossians 3:13

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