

2020_03_14_15

K-1st Small Group

Bible Story: Step by Step (Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness) • Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24

Bottom Line: Take the first step to forgive others.

Key Question: What is keeping you from forgiving?

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 (NIV)

Life App: Forgiveness - Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Preservice Activities:

When kids are first arriving have a few toys out for kids to play with before you start the activity below. Use the time for casual conversation, connection, and to have fun. Before you go to large group spend a few minutes reviewing the bible story and getting them ready for large group.

Hopscotch

Invite the kids to play hopscotch, hopping on one foot through the single squares and on two feet through the double squares. Allow them to get creative by counting, going backward, going fast, jumping with both feet, etc. Keep the pace quick, so that kids aren't getting bored waiting for their turn on the hopscotch board. Instruct them to move through the board quickly and then hop back in line for their next turn!

Way to play hopscotch! It was fun coming up with new ways to move through the board. Let's head to Large Group, where we will learn what Jesus says about taking steps toward forgiveness!

Remind the kids of the Rules posted in your room.

Go to large group time at 5 mins after the service begins. (5:35, 9:05, 11:05) The manager will give you direction.

Small Group Time

When kids come back into small group time, **set out the rubber dots** so every child and yourself has a place to sit in a circle.

Discussion Questions

- When is it hard to forgive someone?
- How do you feel when somebody does something annoying to you on purpose or takes something of yours without asking? (Mad; annoyed)
- What do you normally want to do when that happens? (Do it back; yell; stay mad; tell the teacher or a parent and make them get in trouble)
- What is keeping you from forgiving?
- What is a grudge? (holding something against someone for what they did to you; not forgiving; ill will)
- What are things people do when they hold a grudge?
- Why is it better to forgive than to stay mad or try to prove that we're right?

Remind the kids to forgive when we're holding something against someone. When we take steps toward forgiveness, we have a better chance of fixing what's broken. In fact, it's so important that Jesus says we should try to fix the relationship even before we worship Him. When you're tempted to stay mad, ask God to help you choose to forgive instead. He will always help us take the first step to forgive others.

Bible Memory Verse Activity:

Review the Bible memory verse and motions you learned in large group time.

Review the following motions with the children to help them memorize this month's memory verse.

- **Put up with** (move your thumb on right hand from your lip to your chin in a downward motion)
- **one another.** (with your left thumb up and right thumb turned downward, make a circling motion with your thumbs)

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

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- **Forgive** (place left hand flat, palm up then move two fingers on your right hand back and forth down the center of the left hand)
- **one another** (with your left thumb up and right thumb turned downward, make a circling motion with your thumbs)
- **if you are holding something against someone.** (holding – clinch both fists; against – push outward with both hands open; someone – make a small circular motion in the air with your index finger next to your right eye)
- **Forgive,** (place left hand flat, palm up then move two fingers on your right hand back and forth down the center of the left hand)
- **just as the Lord** (make the letter “L” with your pointer finger and thumb on your right hand; then take the “L” sign from your left shoulder and cross to your right side at your waist.
- **forgave you.** (place left hand flat, palm up then move two fingers on your right hand back and forth down the center of the left hand and then point to the audience for “you”)
- **Colossians 3:13 (NirV)** (cup hands like a book and then hold up the numbers)

Pray and Dismiss:

Let's pray and ask God to help us be brave enough to take the first step to forgive others.

Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us every day. Give us bravery to take the first step to fix the relationship, just like You do for us. We love You! Amen.

As parents arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share with their parents what God tells us to do first, even before we worship him!

Parent Pick Up:

- When parents are picking up kids be sure to:
- Say the kid's name. Introduce yourself to the parent picking up child.
- Check the numbers on tags to make sure they match.
- Give each parent a God Time card to do with their child this week.
- Ask child if they remember the bottom line/memory verse:
- Have a great week, see you next time.

Clean up:

- Please put any supplies back in your bins.
- Please put any toys you chose back in the resource room. You know where you got them from so it's easiest for you to return them, and the next small group leader might want to choose a different set of toys to play with.
- Check in with the manager before you leave to let them know all your kids have been picked up, any issues that need to be addressed, or anything amazing that needs to be celebrated.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!