

2020_03_14_15

4th-5th 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 options for them to choose from. You could have a card, board or table top game going on the table. These will be on the shelf in the 45 small group room or in the closet in the game room. You can play video games. You can play basketball. You can also do coloring or activity pages – on the shelf. I've also added an interactive board where they can include things they are thankful for and/or things they would like prayers for. They write them on the cards provided and then tack them up on the board. Before you go to large group, spend a few minutes doing the activity described below.

First Steps Game

What You Need: "First Step" Activity Page, pencils

Pair kids up. Give each pair a "First Step" Activity Page. Tell teams to make a list of what is wrong in the picture. Encourage teams to decide what would be the first thing they would fix. Allow teams time to share what they would fix first and why.

As you wrap up, you might say that there were a lot of things that needed to be fixed. Sometimes, when we are faced with a lot of options, it is difficult to decide what our first step should be. However, there is always a first step we should be ready to take. Let's head to Large Group to hear what it is.

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, have everyone sit in a circle. You can set out chairs or sit on the floor.

Discussion Questions

- When is it hard to forgive someone?
 - To prompt kids, ask: Is it easier to forgive someone you like or someone who annoys you?
 - How do your feelings affect how easy it is to forgive someone?
 - Is it easy to forgive someone when you are angry?
 - What about if you have already forgiven them and they keep doing the same thing?
- What is keeping you from forgiving?
- What are things people do when they hold a grudge?
- What have you learned that can help you to take the first step to forgive?
- How can knowing we are all created in God's image help you to forgive others?

As you close the discussion, remind the kids that God doesn't want us to hold on to anything that keeps us from forgiving someone; God wants us to let go of anything we are holding against someone. And God can help us do that if we ask Him.

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

Ask kids: What is one new thing you learned today?

Close in prayer by saying, God, You are amazing! You sent Jesus so we could have Your forgiveness no matter what we've done. God, when we are hurt or angry it is hard for us to forgive. Often the first step we need to take is to tell You how we feel and trust You will help us to put up with each other and let go of what we are holding against someone. Help us to forgive as You forgave us; help us to take the first step. Amen.

If you have extra time before parents pick up let kids play games from preservice activities.

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.
- Have a great week, see you next time.

Clean up:

- Please put any supplies back in your bins or on the shelf.
- Please put any games or activities you chose back in the resource room or game room closet. 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!