

2020_03_14_15

2nd – 3rd 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:

Start with the preservice activity below and have kids join in as they arrive. If you have time, you could start a few games (Uno, Legos, MarbleWorks) after you finish the activity below. Use the time for casual conversation, connection, and to have fun.

Balancing Act

What You Need: Pencils

Gather the kids to stand and spread out as much as possible in your small group area. Give each child a pencil to balance on their head. Play upbeat instrumental music or sing a silly song on mobile device from the playlist from the at nhckidstime.com. As the music plays, kids must walk around your small group area balancing the pencils on their heads. If a pencil falls, they must freeze and cannot move again until another friend picks up their pencil for them. (The friend who helps may hold his own pencil in place while helping.) Stop the music at regular intervals to allow kids to reset their pencils. Play as time and interest allow. You may have them move the pencil to the bridge of the nose or their wrist to add interest.

As you close, you may say if you dropped the pencil in this game, what happened? (Pause for responses.) Yes! You couldn't move until someone stepped up to help you. In our Bible story today in Large Group, we'll learn about how stepping up can make a big difference in our relationships with others.

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?
- 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.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

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- **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)
- **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 together and ask God to help take the first steps to forgive this week.

Let's pray: God, thank You for loving us and for always choosing to forgive us, even when we don't deserve it. When we're tempted to stay mad or refuse to forgive, help us to make the wise choice and choose to fix the relationship instead of just being right or making a point. We want to be a good friend and to love others the way You love us. So this week, help us to take the first step to forgive others. In Jesus' name we pray, 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!