

2020_02_29-03_01

K-1st Small Group

Bible Story: Mercy Mercy Me (Unmerciful Servant) • Matthew 18:21-35

Key Question: Why does forgiveness matter?

Bottom Line: Forgive others because God forgives you.

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

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.

Create a Crown

What You Need: "Create a Crown" Activity Pages; extra strips of paper; crayons or markers

Set out the crowns and the decorating supplies. Let kids decorate their crowns, and remind them to write their names on their crowns. Talk about who wears crowns and what power they have. Let the kids know that in today's story we'll be talking about a king. They need to pay close attention to his actions.

As you close, you might say, those are some nice looking crowns! They are fit for the king in our story today! Let's head to large group to hear a story from the Bible about someone who borrowed from a king and couldn't quite give it back!

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 the servant came before the king, owing a large sum of money, what did the king do?
- Did he choose to forgive or not forgive the debt? (Yes, instead of throwing him into jail or insisting that he repay him, the king chose to forgive the debt completely.)
- When the now-forgiven servant saw the man who owed him a small amount, what did he do? (He did NOT forgive. He refused to cancel the other man's much smaller debt.)
- Why do you think he refused to forgive?
- What do you think you might have done in this situation if you were that forgiven servant? (Allow a few moments for discussion.)
- Let's say someone says mean or unkind things to you. What does it look like to forgive them?
- What happens when you hold a grudge or are looking for ways to get even?
- Why do you think forgiveness is important?

When someone does something wrong to us, or something we don't like, what do we usually want to do? (Pause for responses. Get back at them; do the same thing back; be mad; not be nice to them)

But that's not what God wants us to do, is it? What does God want us to do instead? (Forgive; not do something mean in return)

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

K-1st Small Group

Just like the king forgave the servant, we can forgive others. When you take your crown home, put it somewhere you will see it every day. Let it be a reminder of how the king forgave the servant, God forgives us, and we can forgive each other. Remember, forgive others because God forgives you.

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)
- **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 the kids, what will your crown help you remember this week? (That we are supposed to forgive others just like God forgave us.) Then close with the prayer below.

Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us every day. Help us forgive others just like You forgive us. We love You. Amen!

As parents arrive to pick up, send kids home with their crowns and encourage kids to tell their parents what the crown is going to remind them about this week.

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.