



WEEK ONE – MARCH 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Mercy Mercy Me (The Unmerciful Servant) • Matthew 18:21–35*

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.*

Summary: We start the month with one of Jesus’ parables recorded in Matthew 18:21–35. Jesus told this parable because Peter asked a question about forgiveness. Peter might have thought he was doing pretty well to say he’d forgive someone seven times, but Jesus raises the stakes and says we ought to forgive others even more. Jesus shows what this means with a parable about a servant who is shown incredible forgiveness yet doesn’t do the same in return.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Pipe Cleaners

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- After they have settled in, give them some pipe cleaners and invite them to create sculptures of people.
 - They can create their family, friends, neighbors or friends from church.
- If you have enough time, you could create your whole small group out of pipe cleaners.

2. Mother, May I Borrow...

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Coins” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into three groups and have them sit facing each other on either side of the room or Small Group space.
- Divide the coins between the three teams and pick a team to go first.
- During their turn, one team says to another team, “Mother, may I borrow . . .” and they insert a coin amount and color they need, based on whatever coins they already have.
- Each time a match is made, kids put those coins down in front of them and those coins are now “out of play.”
- The goal is for each team to match as many coins as they can.
- Keep going until one team has no coins without matches left.
- The team with the most matches at the end is the winner.

What You Say:

*“Wow, that was a fun game! You guys are so good at matching up all the coins! **[Transition]** 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!”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Forgive others because God forgives you. God’s love for us is huge. That love drives God to forgive us when we do something wrong. God can help us to forgive people in our life. When we realize how much God has forgiven us, we can turn around and forgive people who might hurt us. This might be difficult, but God can give us the help we need to love others and show forgiveness.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Create a Crown

[Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing

What You Need: “Create a Crown” Activity Pages; extra strips of paper; crayons or markers; jewel stickers or sticky jewels

What You Do:

- Set out the crowns and the decorating supplies.
- Let kids decorate their crowns, and remind them to write their names on their crowns.
- While the kids are decorating, use the paragraphs below to lead them in a conversation about what it means to forgive someone else.
- After the kids are done coloring, you can staple the crown together to fit their head and add the extra strips of paper if needed.

What You Say:

“When someone does something wrong to us, or something we don’t like, what do we usually want to do? (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)

*“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, **[Bottom Line]** *Forgive others because God forgives you.*”*

2. Memory Verse Teamwork

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Memory Verse Teamwork” Activity Pages, Bibles (marked at Colossians 3:13, for younger kids)

What You Do:

- Look up the memory verse using the tips below and read it twice together as a group.
 - **Finding verses with kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Colossians at the top of the page as you say “Colossians” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 13; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
 - **Finding verses with 1st graders:** *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Colossians starts with the letters C–O–L. When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 13 in chapter 3.*
- Teach the group the motions (suggestions below) for the entire verse. Do this a few times, prompting them to copy you as you say the verse.
- Split the group into 3 teams.
- Assign each team a different part of the verse.
- Review the verse in order, pointing to each group when it’s their turn.
- Then see if they can complete the verse and motions without your pointing.
- Hand Motions:
 - Put: Hold left hand up like you are holding a platter.
 - up: Hold right hand up like you are holding a platter.
 - with one another: Point quickly to your friends around you.
 - Forgive: Open hands like you are reading a book.
 - one another: Point quickly to your friends around you.
 - if you are holding something against someone: Cross left arm over right to form an X.
 - Forgive: Open hands like you are reading a book.
 - just as the Lord: Point up with both hands.
 - forgave you: Point to each other.

- Colossians 3:1 (NirV)

What You Say:

*“WOW! Before you know it, you will have this whole memory verse memorized! This verse will help us remember that God wants us to **[Bottom Line] forgive others because God forgives you.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Kids’ crowns from the “Create a Crown” activity

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to sit in a circle with their crowns on their heads.
- Quickly give kids a few different situations where forgiveness is needed, and prompt them to respond with, **[Bottom Line] “Forgive others because God forgives you.”**
 - When a friend borrows a pencil and doesn’t give it back . . .
 - When your mom told you it was McDonald’s night for dinner, but it’s leftovers instead . . .
 - When your sister takes one of your toys to school and loses it . . .

What You Say:

“What will your crown help you remember this week? (That we are supposed to forgive others just like God forgave us.) Let’s pray and thank God for His forgiveness every day. 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 adults 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. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!