



## WEEK THREE – MARCH 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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

**Bottom Line:** *Take the first step to forgive others.*

**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:** Jesus brought His followers to a mountain to explain to them what it means to live as part of God’s kingdom. During that message, He said something important about forgiveness. In Matthew 5:23-24 Jesus said, “Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother or sister has something against you. Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with them. Then come back and offer your gift.” We should seek to make things right with others before trying to worship God.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Early Arriver Idea

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**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, play a game of “Simon Says,” but only give commands that have to do with their feet, such as: stomp, jump, run, skip, walk, tiptoe, etc.
- If you wish, let kids take turns being Simon.
  - Let each round’s winner be the next Simon. Or choose the kid who’s showing the most self-control and participating in the game by following the rules.

### 2. Hopscotch

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

**What You Need:** Prepared hopscotch board

**What You Do:**

- 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!

**What You Say:**

*“Way to play hopscotch! It was fun coming up with new ways to move through the board.*

***[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group, where we will learn what Jesus says about taking steps toward forgiveness!”***

***Lead your group to the Large Group area.***

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Bottom Line:** *Take the first step to forgive others. Forgiveness is important to God. If we are in a difficult situation with someone, we should seek to make it right with them. While there are some relationships that might never be fully restored, we can at least try to offer and show forgiveness to others in our life.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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**1. Freeze Dance****[Application Activity]**

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play*

**What You Need:** Music

**What You Do:**

- Play some upbeat music and encourage kids to dance however they want to.
- After about 15 seconds, stop the music and tell kids to freeze!
- Once the kids are frozen, call out one way that we can take a step toward forgiving others or showing others that we have forgiven them.
- Challenge kids to quickly perform that action before the music starts back up.
- After a few rounds, feel free to let your kids create some action steps of their own!
  - Example Action Steps:
    - High five your neighbor.
    - Smile to the person on your right.
    - Wave to the person across from you.
    - Say hello to the person to your left.
    - Give the person behind you a compliment.

**What You Say:**

*“That was a great game of freeze dance! Jesus wants us to [Bottom Line] take the first step to forgive others. All of the actions we just did when we froze are great ways to take a small step toward fixing a relationship. When somebody does something wrong to us, or when we do something wrong to someone else, it hurts our relationship with that person. What does it feel like when you don’t have a good relationship with your mom or dad? (Let a few kids respond.) What about when you don’t have a good relationship with a friend? (Let another few kids respond.) Right! It doesn’t feel good when a relationship is broken. That’s why, even if you weren’t the one who did something wrong, it’s always a good idea to try to do SOMETHING to help fix the relationship.”*

***[Make It Personal] (Tell about a child-appropriate time when you were brave and took a step toward forgiveness with a friend. Maybe that friend left you out of a group somehow, but you decided to text him, “Good luck,” anyway, when you knew he had a big test coming up. Share how it made you feel and how it affected the relationship.)***

## **2. Step by Step**

### **[Memory Verse Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** “Step by Step” Activity Page, butcher paper, crayons, wall tape

### **What You Do:**

- Place the long piece of butcher paper on the floor and hang the memory verse up on the wall for everyone to see.
- Instruct the kids to trace the outline of one of their feet on the butcher paper. (The outlines will be far from perfect! But, as much as possible, let kids do the tracing themselves.) Make sure the feet are in a semblance of a line on the paper.
- Assign each kid a word or two from the verse posted above, making sure you’re assigning the verse according to the order of kids’ feet on the butcher paper.
- Instruct kids to write their word(s) inside their own foot outline, and then decorate the outline however they’d like.
- Once everyone is finished, practice saying the verse together a couple times. Or let kids take turns walking along the footsteps on the butcher paper, saying each word as they step on it.

### **What You Say:**

*“Our memory verse steps look so cool! Can anyone tell me why we wrote the verse on our feet outlines? Right! Because we’re talking about taking the first STEP toward forgiveness! And we need feet to take steps! **[Bottom Line] Take the first step to forgive others** when they do something wrong. Instead of staying mad, remember what our verse says: forgive!”*

***(NOTE: In this phase, most of the things kids need to forgive or be forgiven for are relatively minor and small. But if you have kids in your group who are in difficult home situations or have been through abuse, be careful not to minimize what they’ve been through by implying that forgiveness is easy or simple.)***

## **3. Pray and Dismiss**

### **[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Butcher paper from the “Step by Step” activity

**What You Do:**

- Gather the kids together along the memory verse butcher paper from the “Step by Step” activity.
- Ask kids to think of one thing they can do to take a step toward fixing a relationship when something has gone wrong.
  - If kids need a few ideas to get them started, remind them of the freeze dance activity. Ask if anyone can remember some of the action steps they did whenever the music stopped.
- Let a couple volunteers share their ideas.

**What You Say:**

*“Let’s pray and ask God to help us be brave enough to **[Bottom Line] 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 adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their adults your group’s memory verse butcher paper.***