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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

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### 1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

**What You Need:** Paper, markers

**What You Do:**

- Give kids a piece of paper and markers.
- Ask them to draw an object, maybe a house, a car, or a cat; any object is fine.
- When most kids are finished drawing, instruct kids to switch papers with one other person and challenge them to change that object into something that can fly or walk.
- Allow kids to share their new creations.
- Switch papers again and challenge them to change their flying object into something that can breathe underwater.
- As time allows, keep offering suggestions for ways to change their creations.
- Suggestions could include: something that can make it snow (or rain), something that can live on the sun. (Optional: Let kids to suggest ways to change their creations.)
- After each change, allow kids to share what they came up with.

**What You Say:**

*“You came up with some very creative changes to transform your pictures. Change can be a good thing. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear how forgiveness changed someone and to learn how forgiveness can change us.**”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *What does it feel like to be forgiven? When it comes to forgiving others, often it helps to put yourself in the other person’s shoes. When we remember what it feels like to have others forgive us, it can help us turn around and forgive people in our life. We hope kids and Small Group Leaders have great conversations about the times people have forgiven them.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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## 1. Take a Snapshot

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** “Emojis” Activity Page, flyswatters

#### What You Do:

- Lay the “Emojis” in a 2x3 grid on the floor.
- As you lay the “Emojis” on the floor, ask the group what feelings they associate with each emoji, e.g. happy, sad, surprised, angry, thankful, confused.
- Give each kid a flyswatter.
- Gather kids around the “Emoji” grid.
- Read a scenario listed below.
- When you say “How do you feel?” instruct kids to “whack” an emoji that represents how they would feel in the scenario you read.
- Allow kids an opportunity to share why they selected the “Emoji” they did, especially if multiple “Emojis” were selected.
- Scenarios:
  - You and your friend get to go see a movie that you have been wanting to see. How do you feel?
  - You and your friend get in a fight and your friend says something mean to you. How do you feel?
  - Your friend apologizes. How do you feel?
  - You and your friend get in a fight and you say something mean to your friend. How do you feel?
  - You say you are sorry and your friend doesn’t forgive you. How do you feel?
  - You say you are sorry and your friend forgives you. How do you feel?
- Ask kids to describe the difference between how it feels when someone forgives you and when someone holds a grudge against you.
  - ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time you were forgiven. Maybe you told a friend you would meet them for lunch and you forgot and didn’t show up. Or you were angry and said something unkind to your brother and you felt bad but your brother forgave you and didn’t try to get even. Share how it felt to be forgiven. Allow kids to share a time they were forgiven too and how it felt to be forgiven.)***

## 2. Discussion Questions

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Ask
  - How did Jesus' forgiveness change Zacchaeus?
  - What does it feel like to be forgiven?
  - How could forgiving someone change them?
  - If necessary, give a scenario. For example:
    - You get an "A" on your math test. A kid at school makes fun of you calls you names because you get good grades and follow the rules. The kid never says he is sorry for being mean to you. What does it look like to forgive the kid for calling you names? How can forgiving them change you? How can forgiving the kid change him?
    - You told your friend something embarrassing you did and they promised not to tell anyone at school. At lunch you overhear your friend repeating what you said to someone else. This isn't the first time your friend broke a promise. What does it look like to forgive your friend? How can forgiving your friend change you? How can forgiving your friend change them? (This example could be a great opportunity to explain forgiveness doesn't mean you have to trust your friend, but it does mean you have to treat him or her kindly. Forgiving your friend doesn't mean you have to forget your friend keeps breaking your trust; it means you don't try to get even or hold a grudge, and maybe it means you stop sharing personal, sensitive information with that friend.)

### 3. Make It Personal with Prayer

#### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle and ask them to close their eyes.
- Lead them in prayer using Colossians 3:13 as a guide.
  - Remind kids to remain reverent and quiet during this exercise so they don't become a distraction to their peers.
- Pray:
  - God, You are [prompt kids to silently fill in words praising God]
  - Thank You for the people You have put in our lives to love and encourage us [prompt kids to silently thank God for specific people in their lives]
  - And even though I love them and they love me there are times when we don't get along [prompt kids to silently tell God if there is someone they are struggling to be nice to or someone they are mad at]

- God sometimes forgiving people is very hard. Help me to not hold a grudge and to not seek revenge. [prompt kids to share with God a grudge they are holding on too]
- God, Thank You for Jesus and for forgiving us. Amen!