
PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Basket, a toy pig

What You Do:

- Set up a basket in the room for a basketball-type game. If you want kids to be able to make “backboard” shots, set the basket next to a wall.
- Explain kids will play a basketball game similar to HORSE except it is called PIG, and instead of a basketball, kids will be using a pig. To play:
 - Kids take turns trying to get the pig into the basket.
 - Once a kid makes a basket, everyone in the group must duplicate the same shot, standing in the same spot with the same form.
 - Anyone who misses gets a “P.”
 - For example: if a kid closes his eyes and shoots with his left hand and the pig lands in the basket, then everyone in the group must close their eyes and shoot with their left hand. Anyone who misses the basket gets a “P.”
 - Kids continue to try to make a basket.
 - Encourage them to be silly and go for the “trick” shots.
 - Every time a kid misses a shot, he or she will receive another letter spelling the word “PIG.”
 - The last kid to spell “PIG” wins.

What You Say:

“Anyone have a guess why we used a pig instead of a basketball? (because there is a pig in our story today) [Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear a story that is less about pigs and more about forgiveness.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *When has someone forgiven you? We hope this question starts a conversation that leads preteens to understand how much God has forgiven them. Often, we need to point out how others*

have forgiven us when we've messed up to see that God forgives us for so much more. God is a loving Father who will always be willing to forgive us no matter what.

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Uninflated balloons, thin markers or pens, basket

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to think of examples of things people do that “wrong each other,” things that might need forgiveness.
 - Examples could include: say mean things, cheat on tests, lie, say things about other people we shouldn't, get angry when we don't get our way, exclude people, forget to do what we say we will, lose our temper, etc.
- Give each kid an uninflated balloon and tell them to write 1–3 examples on the uninflated balloons.
 - This might be a bit challenging, so suggest kids pick out a key word for each example, such as: lie, gossip, anger, mean, ignore, etc.
- Tell kids to blow up their balloons and knot the stems.
- Encourage kids to share their examples with the group.
- Discuss the examples.
- Direct kids to shoot their balloons into the basket to be used during the Verses to Take with You Activity.

2. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Scene Cards” Activity Pages, butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

- Gather kids around the large piece of butcher paper.
- Allow kids to pick a “Scene Card.”
- Encourage kids to draw something representing the scene on the butcher paper.
- As a group, retell the story using the pictures kids drew. Make sure everyone's picture is included in the story line.
- Ask: Tip: Consider asking the questions while kids are drawing.

- The story of the father and his two sons is called a parable. What's a parable? (a parable is a story used to teach something, Jesus frequently told parables to make His point)
- How can we sometimes be like the younger son?
- How is the father like God? What is Jesus teaching us about God's forgiveness in this parable?
- Facilitate discussion so the kids have the opportunity to tell the story of God's forgiveness. Just like the younger son did things that kept him from having a relationship with his father, we do things that keeps us from having a relationship with God. God sent Jesus to make a way for to fix our relationship with God so we have God's forgiveness and we can be with Him now and forever.
- Emphasize that God's forgiveness is for everyone and God doesn't hold a grudge.

3. 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:
 - What is one way you respond when you've done something wrong?
 - When has someone forgiven you? Encourage kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
 - What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?
 - Encourage kids to share. ***[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share an age-appropriate example of when someone forgave you. Maybe you forgot to meet your friend for lunch like you said you would and your friend didn't hold it against you and simply rescheduled another time to get together. Or you borrowed a tool from a friend and it broke, but your friend didn't make you buy a new one to replace it.)***

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Index cards, Bibles, pencils or markers, paper

What You Do:

- Give kids some quiet time to pray. Suggest options for ways to spend this prayer time:

- Talking silently to God
- Reading Psalm 103:8–12 as a prayer to God
- Write a prayer with each sentence starting with a letter in the word “FORGIVE.”
- Draw something to represent your prayer