

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray that every child can find genuine and authentic moments to connect with God. Ask God to give you wisdom in conversations and sensitivity while discussing forgiveness. Pray that God's Word will dive deep into the hearts of the kids and take root there, growing day by day. Ask for opportunities to share the love and truth of who God is to others this week.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Life Changes
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you forgive others,
it can change them.**

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and LEGO® bricks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought offerings to place them in the container.
- Give each kid about twenty LEGO bricks.
- Invite the kids to build a person, animal, building, vehicle, anything they want.
- After a few minutes, shout, "REDO!"
- Direct the kids to pull apart their creations and build something new.

MONTHLY 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, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**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.**

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. WHY FORGIVENESS?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Coffee filters, washable markers, spray bottle(s) of water, and a towel

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass a coffee filter to each kid.
- Set out the markers in the center of the Small Group area.
- Instruct the children to select a marker and write the name of someone they see a lot every day (a parent, sibling, their best friend etc.) in the center of the coffee filter.
- Let the kids decorate their coffee filter. They can color over the name in the center if they choose.
- Discuss the following questions as they work.
 - Have you ever told someone, "I forgive you"? How did it feel to say that?
 - How does it feel to be mad at someone for a long time?
- As they finish, encourage the children to lay their coffee filter on the towel and spray it five or six times with water. Lead them to count so they don't overdo it.
- Watch what happens to their designs because of the water on the surface.
- Leave the coffee filters on the towel to dry.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Luke 19:1-10

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What happened to the designs you created when you sprayed them with water? (Pause for responses.) Yes, they changed! When we choose to forgive others, it can change them! Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. It's choosing to let go of the anger or frustration, to move on with a 'you don't owe me' attitude. When you choose to do that, it's not a guarantee that the person WILL change. But it does make a way for things to be different and for your relationship with that person to be better because you're not staying mad at them for what they did. If you find yourself wanting to stay mad this week, remember that **when you forgive others, it can change them.**"

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3. PASS IT ON MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Playground ball and a Bible marked at Colossians 3:13

WHAT YOU DO:

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Colossians 3:13.
- Read the verse aloud as a review.
- Talk about the next phrase of the verse: Forgive one another.
- Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.
- When you choose to forgive, you're choosing to say, "You don't owe me for what you did."
- Guide the kids to circle up.
- Lead the kids to repeat the verse as you pass the ball around the circle.
- When the ball returns to you, reverse the direction.
- Be prepared to lead the kids since this month's verse is rather long.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our memory verse reminds us to forgive one another. Have you ever been hurt so much that you just couldn't let it go? Maybe someone said something or did something unkind, and you just kept thinking about it? The best way to stop that is by choosing to forgive. **When you forgive others, it can change them.**"

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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids.
- Remind your group that **when you forgive others, it can change them.**
- Then lead your group in a call and response prayer, having kids repeat what you said when you pause.

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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it can change them.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Forgiveness, deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay, is our responsibility. What the other person chooses to do is theirs. We can forgive, and the other person can change like Zacchaeus. OR they might not. They might keep bugging you. Let's pray that God would help us choose to forgive anyway, to GIVE the gift of letting it go. I'll say a phrase and I want you to repeat it aloud after me.

"Dear God (*pause*), we love you. (*Pause.*) Will you help us choose to forgive (*pause*) and let it go (*pause*) instead of holding onto our anger? (*Pause.*) Thank you for always forgiving us (*pause*) because you love us. (*Pause.*) In Jesus' name we pray, amen." (*Pause.*)

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As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to take their popsicle stick puppets home as they share the story of Zacchaeus with their families and remember that **when you forgive others, it can change them.**

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