

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, walk around the room and pray over the space. Ask God to touch the hearts of every kid and family member in attendance this morning—both regular attenders and new visitors. Ask God for wisdom in the activities and discussions with kids, creating opportunities for love and forgiveness. Give praise for everything God has already done and will do.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Mercy, Mercy Me
The Story of the Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Forgive others because God forgives you.

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.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome the kids to Small Group as they arrive.
- Encourage those who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Lead the kids to repeat the following actions seven times or for seven seconds.
 - Jumping jacks
 - Clap
 - Stomp
 - Squats
 - Say your name
 - Give a high five to seven different friends
 - Hold plank
 - Jog in place

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



*** 1. MODERN-DAY PARABLE**
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Modern-Day Parable" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell kids they get to help you rewrite the parable of the unmerciful servant as if Jesus was telling it today!
- Read the parable on the "Modern-Day Parable" Activity Page through once.
- Then, read one line at a time, pausing after each and guiding the kids to rephrase that line in a modern way.
- If going through the story line-by-line gets kids stuck, give them one of the modern-day prompts and let them run with it, telling the story completely in their own way.
- Be prepared to ask prompting questions to get them thinking in the right direction.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Mercy, Mercy Me
The Story of the Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When Jesus taught, He often told parables, or stories, to help people understand things about God. These lessons are still true for our lives today, just like we showed with our modern-day parable! We were able to see that God's forgiveness can, and should, change us. We've learned that you can **forgive others because God forgives you.**

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Forgive others because God forgives you.

"Forgiveness isn't just a one-time thing. Forgiveness is an ongoing decision on how we want to live our lives. It's deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. There's nobody who is perfect, and we all need forgiveness. Because of that, we should forgive others."

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

Note: Make sure kids understand that if someone keeps hurting them in the same way, such as in a bully situation or an unsafe situation at home, that requires more help and involvement than what they're able to handle on their own. If you ever suspect a kid is in an unsafe situation at home, talk to your church staff leader immediately.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate story about when you were forgiven then share about a time when you had the chance to forgive someone else.)

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. FORGIVE OR DON'T FORGIVE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Forgive" and "Don't Forgive" signs and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape each sign on one side of your Small Group space.
- Read the first scenario from the list below.
- Ask kids to move to one sign or the other based on whether or not it would be difficult for them to forgive in that situation.
- Scenarios:
 - Your older sister calls you a big baby. You hate it when she calls you that.
 - Your little brother breaks your art project. He feels really bad and says so.
 - Your friend passes out invitations to his birthday. You don't receive one.
 - Your mom is frustrated by the big mess you made, and she raises her voice. Later, she apologizes for yelling.
 - A classmate in PE keeps stealing the basketballs and keeping them in a corner of the gym.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Sometimes, when people do things that hurt our feelings, they apologize. But sometimes, they don't. It's never easy to forgive, especially when the other person doesn't seem sorry. But the truth is, if we want to restore or fix our friendships, we have to be willing to forgive.

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

"This week, when you find yourself upset and want to stay mad, remember that God forgives you. Ask God to help you choose to forgive. You can **forgive others because God forgives you.**"

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an index card and pencil.
- Ask them what relationship of theirs needs a repair or redo. (Explain this with the dialogue below.)
- Encourage the kids to write the first letter of that person’s name on an index card.
- Lead the kids in prayer, asking God to help them repair the relationship by offering forgiveness this week.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“What does it mean to repair or redo our relationships? How does forgiveness help us fix our relationship with someone else? (Pause.) Those are great answers. When someone does something annoying, and it’s bugging you, or if you’re the one at fault, the relationship probably needs to be repaired. It doesn’t mean that you have to be best friends, but it DOES mean you shouldn’t hold a grudge. You should choose to let it go.

“And if it’s you that’s causing the problem, you should stop doing whatever it is to bug the other person. Forgiveness goes both ways! And it’s EASIER to forgive when we remember we’ve been forgiven. Let’s pray and talk to God as we remember to **forgive others because God forgives you.**”

“Dear God, thank You for choosing to love us, no matter what. We want to forgive others because YOU forgive us. This week, when we find ourselves staying mad at the person on our cards, would You remind us that our relationship needs a redo? Will You help us forgive because You’ve forgiven us? We need Your help for sure. Thanks for sending Jesus to show us Your forgiveness and love. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to talk about how many times God chooses to forgive us (hint, it’s MORE than 77 times), to repair our relationships and **forgive others because God forgives you.**

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