



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- When has someone forgiven you?
- Has anyone ever asked for your forgiveness? How did you respond?
- How can forgiveness change someone?
- Do you ever spend time asking God for forgiveness? Why or why not?
- Do you think it's more difficult to be on the receiving end of forgiveness or the giving end?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Life Changes
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you forgive others, it can change them.

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.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Forgiveness Builds Change" Activity Page, two sets of blocks in assorted shapes, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into two teams, and have the teams spread out so that each team has plenty of space around them.
- Give each team a set of "Forgiveness Verses" cards and question sheet, a set of blocks, and a Bible.
- Recruit one kid from each team to be the designated photographer. This person will need to have some sort of phone or device that they can use to snap a few photos.

Note: If no one on either team has a phone or device, you can be the one to take photos for each team, using your own phone.

- Explain that one kid from each team will go first.
- When you say, "Go!" those kids will use all of their blocks in order to build some sort of structure or building.
- The team photographer will snap a photo of it.
- Then the team will work together to look up the verse on the first card in their stack.
- They should read the verse out loud for their team and then work together to answer the coinciding question on their question sheet.
- Once the first question has been answered, they will choose another teammate to go next.
- Repeat the process of building with the blocks, looking up verses, and answering questions until every verse has been read and every question has been answered.
- Each player who builds a structure with the blocks must build a structure different than any other structure that has already been built.
- The first team to complete every verse and answer every question AND can prove that they built six unique structures is the winning team.
- The team photographers will show the photos they took in order to make sure each structure was unique.
- After declaring the winners, point out that they had to keep reusing the same blocks to make completely different structures.
 - Each unique structure had its own individual design.
 - Forgiveness does not take away what makes us who we are. Instead, it can change what's already there, giving us new life and purpose.
- Let kids take turns answering the questions from the game. (See answers below.)

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BASIC TRUTH

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

1. In order to forgive others, one must get rid of all bitterness, rage, and/or anger.
2. Through forgiveness, God chooses not to count our sins against us.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

3. We shouldn't forgive someone up to seven times, but rather seventy-seven times.
4. God is full of love and mercy.
5. When you are praying, you can ask God to help you forgive.
6. God's forgiveness should motivate us to forgive others.



WEEK TWO MARCH 2023

SMALL GROUP PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Stationary or blank cards with envelopes, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to share if they've ever found out someone was thinking of them or praying for them. How did it feel to be on the receiving end of their thoughtfulness? Did that change or motivate you in any way? Explain how it can really change people when they believe someone cares about them. We can care for others by forgiving them if they do something wrong. We can also care for someone else by praying for them. Distribute the blank cards and envelopes. Instruct them to think of one person they need to forgive. Explain that the need for forgiveness doesn't always mean it has to be a big thing. It's common for us to be disappointed by a minor broken promise or to be hurt by something a friend said when they were annoyed, because no one is perfect. We all have situations where we have to forgive others for something they did. Give kids a few minutes to write a note to the person they need to forgive, letting them know they care about the relationship and want to forgive them for what they did. Some kids may not have any current situations that require forgiveness. Let them know they can write a note to anyone in their lives, telling them how thankful they are for them. Note: This may be a brand-new experience for many kids, as most kids don't write hand-written notes anymore. Be prepared to coach kids through some ideas of things to write. Encourage kids to send or hand deliver their notes. Ask them to commit to praying for the person they wrote a note to. Tell them that praying for someone is great way to show love to them. Lead the group in a prayer and give kids an opportunity to silently pray for the person they wrote to.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, Thank You for how you always forgive us. Thank You for reminding us how important it is to forgive others. Please help us forgive people who have hurt us or let us down. (Encourage kids to pray silently at this time for the people they wrote notes to.) Thank You for these people you have placed in our lives. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."