



WEEK
THREE
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:

- What keeps you from forgiving? When is it difficult to forgive?
- When there's someone you need to forgive, but you're not willing to forgive them, how does that affect you?
- What do you do if you've forgiven someone for the same thing multiple times? *(This could be a sensitive question for some kids. Be mindful of those who may be experiencing difficult situations with tough friends or even family members. Remind kids that God wants the best for them, so forgiveness does not mean they continue to allow someone to hurt their feelings or treat them poorly. Seek immediate assistance from your children's ministry staff if a kid shares something that reveals they're in a dangerous situation.)*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What keeps you from forgiving?

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 can trust God no matter what.



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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: White board, dry erase marker, Prepared "Verse Puzzle" Activity Page, Bibles, sticky notes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Write the following Bible verse references on the white

board:

- 1 John 1:9
- Lamentations 3:22
- Romans 5:8
- Psalm 103:12
- Colossians 1:13-14
- Micah 7:18

- Divide kids into two teams and have each team together on one end of your group space.
- Hand each team a Bible and 10 sticky notes.
- Place each set of "Verse Puzzle" Activity Page pieces on the opposite end from the two teams.
- Explain that you will have a relay race where they will be looking up each verse on the board and will also retrieve the puzzle pieces, one by one.
- When you say, "Go!" teams will use their Bibles to look up the first verse on the board and read it out loud together. They will place a sticky note on the page to mark their spot.
- Once they have read the first verse, one teammate will race to the opposite end, and grab one puzzle piece.
- They will run back to their team and then look up the next verse on the board, placing another sticky note on the page.
- Teams will repeat this process until every verse has been looked up and every puzzle piece has been retrieved.
- Once the teams have every puzzle piece, they must work as a team to put the puzzle together.
- The first team to complete their puzzle wins!
- After both teams have finished, take turns recruiting kids to re-read each of the verses from the board out loud for the entire group. (Verses should already be marked in Bibles with the sticky notes they used during the game.)
- Explain to kids that, through Scripture, we see again and again that God loves us and chose to forgive us first. Sometimes when we are dealing with conflict, life can feel messy, like a stack of puzzle pieces. Sometimes we aren't sure how it's all going to fit together. But we have God's Word to encourage us and guide us through life and remind us that God's here to help it all make sense.

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MADE TO CREATE

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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Jars, cans, or plastic recycled containers, jumbo craft sticks, construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, permanent markers, assorted stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids sit in a circle or at a table where everyone can reach supplies to share. Spread out construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, permanent markers, and stickers.
- Give each kid a container of some kind and seven jumbo craft sticks.
- Explain that you will be making "Prayer Jars" by repurposing these recycled containers.
- Kids can decorate them however they want, using the supplies you've provided. They can cover their jars or containers with construction paper if they like, but they don't have to.
- On each of the craft sticks, instruct them to write one of the following prayer prompts with a permanent marker.
 - Ask for forgiveness.
 - Ask for help to forgive.
 - Pray for someone who is struggling.
 - Pray for a family member.
 - Pray for a friend.
 - Thank God for forgiving you.
 - Praise for something God's done.
- Encourage kids to take these "Prayer Jars" home and use them to help them know what to pray about. Explain that they don't have to use every stick every day. They may want to pick out two or three whenever they are spending time praying. Or since there are seven sticks, they could choose one every day of the week.
- Let kids discuss different ways they like to pray or times of the day that work better for prayer time.
- Assure kids that everyone struggles with knowing exactly how to pray. Having a guide like this can help.
- Ask if anyone would like to close in prayer (or say a quick sentence prayer), using one of the sticks they just created.
- Close the group in prayer, praying that kids would remember that they can trust God no matter what.

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