



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TEACHING OUTLINE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me Forgive One Another Colossians 3:13

WEEK 4

Key Question: **Why is forgiveness important?** It would be great if friends got along all the time. But the reality is, people in our life will hurt us . . . and the way we respond is important. Jesus forgives us, so we should work toward forgiving others. Forgiveness allows us to repair and rebuild relationships that are meaningful and ultimately good for us. We pray that kids will understand what forgiveness can look like for their relationships.

We finish up the month with **Colossians 3:13**. Paul wrote, "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Forgiveness is a big part of growing friendships. Through this verse, we learn that because God forgave us, we can forgive others when they mess up—especially the people we consider our friends.

Bottom Line: **Friends forgive one another.** As kids learn about God's incredible forgiveness through Jesus, we hope that they will start to understand more about how they can forgive their own friends. It's not just about accepting an apology and saying everything is all right. We pray that kids will understand how they can forgive others and work to rebuild their friendships that are worth saving.

TEACHING GUIDE:

KEYSCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:13

This message should be 15- 18min. More time for small group is key. Remember the lead small model.

"As we get ready to head to groups today, think about this question.

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"Why is forgiveness important? What happens if we decide not to forgive? Is forgiveness just for small stuff . . . or do we need to learn how to do it for the big stuff, too? This will be a great conversation for you to have in small group. Your leaders would love to help you unpack some of these ideas even more. But before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be more like Him in the way that we forgive! Let's pray!"

BASIC TRUTH

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

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIRV

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."**
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care**

BASIC TRUTH

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

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! I can't believe September is almost over! But we're still making Harmony here, though. I've had so much fun with our musical games this month, and this one may top them all. It's called, 'Harmonious Humor!'"

SLIDE: "HARMONIOUS HUMOR"

"First, I need some answers from you.

Use the "Harmonious Humor Fill-In Lyric Sheet" printed from the Week 4 Large Group Assets PDF to fill into the blank song lyrics to give to the Host to sing.

"I need a 'place in town' . . . like a park . . . the mall . . . whatever you can think of!"

Use the below categories to fill in the sheet.
Place in town
Adjective



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Something in nature (like a volcano, a meadow, a river)
Something shiny
Girl's name (not someone in the room)
Greeting
Something fragrant
Something that melts
Plural vegetable
Method of communication
Reason someone moves away

“Okay those are excellent answers! Now I’m going to bring [Name of Leader] out to sing us a really sad song. A song you all helped write. You want to hear it? Let’s go then!”

Leader enters with a guitar (won’t play) and a cowboy hat. They will sing the song to the tune of “Oh My Darling Clementine.” Can be done without music or with a backing track. They can use the fill-in lyric sheet for the lyrics.

(After leader sings the song) “That may be one of the wildest things I have heard yet! Let’s all stand together and worship!”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY **WORSHIP** GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "I am so ready for this time to worship with all of you. This song is about loving others the way God has loved us. Everybody say, 'I want to love like You.' (Get a response. Repeat if needed.) Oh, yeah! We can share God's love with the way we live each day. Let's sing!

AUDIO: "LOVE LIKE YOU" / TRACK 9 FROM MAKE A MOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "LOVE LIKE YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Nice singing, everyone! Before we continue in worship, check this out.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"This song is about us being the kind of friend to others that Jesus has been to us. Jesus is kind. He is faithful and stands by us. He forgives and He loves. Let's be all those things to the people in our lives. Come on and sing this with me!

AUDIO: "SAY IT AGAIN" / TRACK 5 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "SAY IT AGAIN" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Listen to what Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:11: 'Encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that's what you are doing.' (NIV) One of the ways we can encourage each other is by pointing out the goodness and amazing ways of God. Our God is wonderful. Let's sing and worship God now."

AUDIO: "WONDERFUL" / TRACK 12 FROM CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "WONDERFUL" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit. Scale should be preset on a table with the blocks.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Now that songwriting MadLib from before was . . . SOMETHING! It may take a while to get that tune out of my head. Anyway . . . We’ve had such a great month around here as we’ve been looking a little more deeply at this idea of Friendship—using your words and actions to show others you care. We’ve talked about how showing others you care can look like keeping your promises, or standing up for them! Not to mention, using wisdom to choose good friends in the first place!

“As we continue today, let’s get started with a question. Now, I should warn you, you might not want to answer it because it will mean admitting to something . . . ready for it? Here it is: have you ever gotten into an argument with a friend over something REALLY petty? Like super silly or absolutely ridiculous? Think about it for a second. Turn to the person next to you and tell them about it.

AUDIO: INSTRUMENTAL BACKGROUND MUSIC

After about a minute, ask if anyone would like to share about their argument. Take several examples as you have time. Feel free to share your own appropriate examples in the following paragraphs.

“Those were some great stories! It’s amazing the sorts of silly things we can argue about.

“I’ve had arguments over the best color for a sports car—red, of course, who was the best actor—Tom Hanks, the best kind of house pet—labradoodles, and best city in the world—London.

“But why are these sorts of arguments silly? *(Take responses.)*

“Yes, of course, they’re opinions. There are all sorts of ‘right’ answers to those categories. Someone can easily argue that neon green is the best color for a sports car, Tom Holland is the best actor, Persian cats win the title of best pet, and New York City is the greatest city in the world. But even though these things are opinions, we’re sometimes willing to get into arguments over them, maybe even lose friends over them! Then when we cool down and think about it, we realize how silly some of these arguments can be!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “The truth is, though, not every argument is silly, right? We won’t be friends with everyone. We might even get along with everyone. And even when we do find someone who is a good friend, at some point, we will get into an argument about something. And some of those things won’t be so silly. We might say something we regret, forget something important, or just hurt each other’s feelings.

“When those sorts of arguments happen with a friend, we might question if the friendship is finished. We might wonder if we wasted our time hanging out and getting to know each other. This is definitely something worth thinking about. Does having an argument with a friend automatically mean your friendship is over? Or is there something you can do to make things right again? Is there a way to move past the hurt and see if the friendship can continue?”



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“Wow. Those are HUGE questions—questions that, honestly, don’t have simple answers. But that doesn’t mean we don’t try to discover the answers. Thankfully we have a great place to start—the Bible! As we’ve seen all month long, the people who wrote the Bible had a LOT to say about our relationships with each other. They shared what they learned from their experiences with God back then, and their experiences can help people like us today!”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Last week we talked about a guy named Saul, also known as Paul. When we first met Paul in the book of Acts, we discovered he was completely against the message of Jesus and the followers of Jesus who were trying to get the word out! He was traveling around, doing anything in his power to stop them. But then something amazing happened. Jesus came to Paul on the road to Damascus and changed Paul’s life! After that, Paul still traveled around, but now he traveled to share the life-changing message of Jesus and start communities of Jesus followers throughout the world.

“One of these churches he helped start was in the city of Colossae.

SLIDE: MAP OF ASIA MINOR

“We’re not sure if Paul ever made it there in person. It’s likely he did during the three years when he was in Ephesus. But he definitely influenced the people there and knew about it. So much so that he ended up writing a letter to them. His letter to this church eventually became the book of Colossians that we find in the New Testament of our Bibles.

“Paul wrote something in that letter that I think might really help us in times when we find ourselves in arguments with our friends. At the start of the letter, Paul wrote about the new life we get because of Jesus and what it means to live as Jesus followers. Then in chapter three, Paul wrote this:

SLIDE: COLOSSIANS 3:13

Open the Bible to Colossians 3:13, (NIRV) and read.

“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.”

Communicator walks over to the scale.

“By now, you’ve probably noticed this scale. What do we use scales like this for? (*Get responses.*) Yeah, it’s not a trick question. Scales are built to weigh things from grains, to fruit, to cake ingredients, to animals, or people—if the scale is large enough. They can tell us how much we’ll pay for our vegetables at the grocery store. They can tell us the impact we’ll face if our dog jumps on top of us when we’re sitting on the couch. Today I’m hoping this scale will help us see a different sort of impact.

“Let’s return to some of those petty, silly, absolutely ridiculous arguments you shared earlier. Can someone tell me something you shared or something that you heard that was a really good example of these sorts of fights?”

Kids and leaders share example. As they do, the Communicator writes a couple words summarizing each example on individual small blocks. After writing each example, set it on the scale. Provide commentary.



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If you need more examples to fill the blocks, you can write your own or use some of the ideas below:

Better athlete

Tastier ice cream flavor

Better candy bar

Faster sports car

Apple vs. Android

Xbox vs. PlayStation vs. Switch

Puppies vs. Kittens

Better subject in school

“What happens each time I add a block to the scale? *(Get responses)* Exactly! The more of these arguments I write and put on the scale, the more weighed down, the heavier this thing is getting.

“And these are the silly, ridiculous ones! What about when it gets a bit more serious? What about . . .

(Writing on a larger block) When a friend hurts you with their WORDS?

Put the block on the scale.

“Or . . . *(Writing on a larger block)* When a friend LIES about something?

Put the block on the scale.

“Or . . . *(Writing on a larger block)* When a friend DOESN'T SHOW UP for something important?

Put the block on the scale.

(Looking at the scale) WOW! This is getting heavy. Unfortunately, this is what it can feel like when there's tension between you and a friend. Maybe you keep track of everything they've ever done, and it's reached the point where it just feels heavy.

“But what might happen if you decided to choose a different way? Let's take another look at what Paul wrote.

SLIDE: COLOSSIANS 3:13

Open the Bible to Colossians 3:13, (NirV) and read.

“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.”

“Let's be real for a second. Forgiveness can be tricky, right? People can hurt us. And we should never stay in friendships that are harming us. But there is something that can happen when we trust God and choose to let go of those things that caused tension in our friendship to begin with. What if we could choose not to keep thinking about the things people did to us? What if we could forgive? Forgiveness might look something like this . . .



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Communicator one by one begins taking the weights off the scale. Don't do them all. Save some for the application.

"For the small things, what if agreeing on the best pet or soccer team isn't that important? *(Remove small block.)*

"What if it's not that big of a deal if you like pizza best and your friend likes tacos best? *(Remove a small block.)*

"Or what if it's okay to disagree about your favorite subjects in school? *(Remove a small block.)*

"Life could feel less heavy because you choose to forgive these sorts of arguments and move on with your friendship.

"Of course there are some bigger things that are more difficult to let go. If you have a friend who is constantly lying to you, it's probably not a good idea to hang out with them. But that doesn't mean you have to keep holding on to the hurt they caused. God can help you let go of that. *(Remove a large block.)*

"If a friend forgets something important once, it might not be that big of a deal. If they're constantly missing things because they're always thinking of themselves, that's different. Maybe it's time to find a new friend. At the same time, we can't keep thinking about how they hurt us. That's not good for us either. We can trust God to help us forgive them. *(Remove a large block.)*

"As we trust God and decide not to hold something against someone, we can let go of the weight of all those moments, and maybe God can help us find a way to be friends again."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You know, it's easy to keep track of all of the things others do wrong to us. In fact, sometimes it feels like holding on to all of them is the best thing we can do. But in the end, they'll keep us from the life God has for us through Jesus."

Hold up some of the blocks.

"We can't escape it. Things happen to us all the time that hurt us and upset us. Some of those things can be silly . . . like who has the best video game system. And it's not like that doesn't hurt if you're super into PlayStation. But in the end, it's not as important as some other things in life. But do we want to hold something like that against someone forever and refuse to forgive them?"

"And like we said, some things can be really serious. And it can be *(pointing to the scale)* heavy. And it can take some time to work through some of the pain that was caused. But if they are a good friend, and they really can be trustworthy, working through the misunderstanding and hurt, trusting God and forgiving them might be super worth it in the long run.

"Again, there may come a time when you have a friend who hurts you SO badly . . . that you just can't be friends with them anymore. And that's okay, and you can find a parent or caring adult to help you through those times. But even if you need to distance yourself from them, God can help you forgive them, because that will help YOU live with peace and freedom even if you don't ever hang out with that person again.

"Do you know one of the coolest things about forgiving others? When we're willing to do this . . .



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Takes more blocks off of the scale.

"... it's a reminder of what God has done for us. Because the truth is ...

Communicator puts some blocks back on the scale.

"This is us ...

Communicator puts all of the rest of the blocks on the scale.

"And so is this. We have done so many things that God has asked us not to. But because of Jesus, God has gladly emptied the scale.

Communicator pulls the blocks off the scale.

"God has FORGIVEN us! God has erased all of this. And when we forgive others, we're acting just like God does. So when we're tempted to hold on to our hurt or to make others pay for what they have done, consider these words of Paul and how you can be more like Jesus in forgiving your friends of the wrongs they have done. This is truly the best way to live ... because this is what God is like!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"Why is forgiveness important?" What happens if we decide not to forgive? Is forgiveness just for small stuff ... or do we need to learn how to do it for the big stuff, too? This will be a great conversation for you to have in small group. Your leaders would love to help you unpack some of these ideas even more. But before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be more like Him in the way that we forgive! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP