



BIG IDEA

God wants me to forgive my family.

BIBLE

Joseph Says, "I Forgive You"
Genesis 37, 43-45

MEMORY VERSE

"God saw everything he had made. And it was very good." Genesis 1:31 (NirV)

SCHEDULE: WELCOME ACTIVITIES **15-20 minutes**

LARGE GROUP LESSON **20-25 minutes**

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: **25-35 minutes** (15 minute rotations)

LARGE GROUP

WELCOME | WORSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome — smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. Invite the kids to worship with you. There are instruments and ribbons under the desk for you to use anytime. Please remind them:

- Worship is a way to show God how much you love Him and to thank Him for all He has done.
- Worship makes God happy. God loves it when we sing and pray to Him
- Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (Clap on each number.)

Digs a hole right under me. (Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)

Slowly I start sinking down. (Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)

Until I'm sitting on the ground. (Sit down on ground or chair.)



SMALL GROUP
PRESCHOOL

LARGE GROUP

BIBLE STORY | Joseph Says, "I Forgive You", Genesis 37. 43-45

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the fruit snacks during the Bible Story Rules video, remind them to hold their trash till the end of the story.

Say, before the Video:

- Hello boys and girls! I'm so, so happy to see you here at church. Today is our very last week of "Busy Bible Builders." In just a little bit, we're going to get busy building our Bible story with Topher and his big blocks.
- Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

STORY TIME RULES

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN

Video: Play "Topher Time" video (Bible Story)

PRAYER

"Open shut them, open shut them, give your hands a clap. Open shut them, open shut them, place your hands in your lap"

- Let's say a prayer together and ask Jesus to help us forgive. (Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)
- Dear Jesus, Thank you for forgiving me. when I do mean things. Please help me forgive my family. when they do mean things to me. Amen



SMALL GROUP
PRESCHOOL

SMALL GROUP 1

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: 3D printed construction vehicle, 1 per child

Today's Bible Verse:

"God saw (make binoculars with your hands) everything He made (fan arms outward). And it was very good (give two thumbs up)." Genesis 1:31 (extend hands like holding a book).

Directions: Gather the children together and remind them that this is the last Sunday for this memory verse. Practice the verse together several times using the motions.

After practicing as a group, give every child a chance to say the verse to a leader. Children may say the verse by themselves, say part of the verse, or repeat the verse after a leader. Celebrate every child who tries.

Every child will receive a 3D printed construction vehicle for practicing the memory verse. Children will receive their vehicle at checkout when they go home so it does not get lost during class.

Say: You have been working hard to learn God's Word! Our Bible verse reminds us that God made everything, and everything He made is very good. We are so proud of you for practicing your memory verse!

Question: What did God say about everything He made?

ALL FALL DOWN (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: God gives us a family to love us and help take care of us, but sometimes our family can do things that make us mad. When that happens, God wants us to forgive our family. Let's play a fun game that helps us say, "I forgive you"



ALL FALL DOWN Continued

Directions: As a group, walk around in a circle while holding hands and singing the rhyme below to the tune of *“Ring around the Rosie.”* At the end of the rhyme, have all of the children fall down to the ground and say *“I forgive you.”* While on the ground, ask the children *if they’ve ever forgiven someone in their family.* Have them tell about it. After one child shares, have everyone stand up and repeat the rhyme. Each time you repeat the rhyme, you can replace *“brother”* with *“sister”* or *“cousin.”* Continue playing until each child has had a turn sharing.

Rhyme:

*Your brother ate your candy, got your clothes all sandy.
Pushed you, tripped you, we all fall down.*

SMALL GROUP 2

COAT OF MANY COLORS (Craft Activity)

Supplies: “Coat of Many Colors” activity sheet (1 per child), tissue paper squares (multiple colors), glue sticks, markers or crayons.

Directions: Give each child a “Coat of Many Colors” activity sheet. Tell the children to glue the colored tissue paper squares to Joseph’s coat. Encourage them to use many different colors. When finished, they can use markers or crayons to color the remainder of the picture.

Say: *Wow — those are some very colorful coats! In today’s true Bible story, there was a boy who had a coat with many colors. Do you remember his name? That’s right....Joseph*

Then something bad happens to his coat, do you remember what happens? Joseph’s brothers tore Joseph’s special coat off him.



COAT OF MANY COLORS Continued

Question: Why do you think Joseph's brothers were so mean to him?

Question: If you were Joseph, would you have forgiven your brothers? Why or why not?

Question: When someone does something mean to you, is it hard for you to say, "I forgive you?" Why or why not?

Repeat Big Idea: God wants me to forgive my family.

COVERED IN FORGIVENESS (Application Activity)

Supplies: Heart stickers (4 per child), Emoji pictures (1 set per group)

Say: In today's true Bible story, Joseph said, "I forgive you" to his brothers. God wants us to forgive our family too. Let's play a game that teaches us how to cover our family with forgiveness.

Directions: Give each child a set of 4 heart stickers. One at a time, place an emoji picture in the middle of the group and ask the children, "Has anyone in your family ever made you [insert corresponding emotion]?" After the children have had a chance to share their story, tell them it's time to cover their family with forgiveness. Have each child take one heart sticker and stick it on the emoji as they say, "I forgive you." Tell them to cover the entire emoji so that it's no longer showing. Repeat this for each of the 4 emoji pictures.

Question: How do you think it makes God feel when you forgive other people? How does it make you feel?



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Every Halloween my neighbors and I collectively make the same two mistakes. We somehow repeatedly overestimate how much candy to purchase and we leave our pumpkins out for way too long. The candy problem is fairly short-lived for me as I have both the sweet tooth and the metabolism of a twelve-year-old boy. The pumpkin issue, on the other hand, is a bit more problematic.

I don't know if you've ever watched a pumpkin decay, but it's not a pretty sight. After a while they become rotten and begin to turn black. My neighbor and I watch each other contemplate the question, "How do I pick this thing up without it falling apart on me?" Decaying pumpkins can be a bit of a predicament, but it's nothing compared to the problems caused by a decaying relationship.

We've all faced the dilemma of how to deal with a decaying relationship and we've all been daunted by the question, "How did it come to this?" For the pumpkin, the answer is simple — time. But for relationships it's usually much more complicated. It could be neglect, broken trust, harsh words, hurt feelings, or any number of other offenses, real or imagined. For most of us, we want to know the answer to the "why" question, but more than anything we want to know if things can ever be right again. We long for the one thing that can bring peace. We long for forgiveness. But how do we find it?

In Lewis Smedes' classic, *The Art of Forgiving*, Dr. Smedes outlines a process that he refers to as "radical spiritual surgery." Smedes says, "We rediscover the humanity of the person who hurt us. We surrender our right to get even. We revise our thoughts, feelings, and perceptions toward the person we forgive."

Sounds easy, right? Not so much! But with the help and grace of God, we can all walk this path. As we look at the story of Joseph we can certainly see God walk him through these three phases. Joseph is betrayed, conflicted, lied about, impassioned, and is elevated to the status of the hero of an empire. But in the end, Joseph isn't just a hero to a kingdom, but a hero that would bring a forgiving and healing peace to his own soul and the souls of his brothers. As you prepare this week, identify those who you have yet to forgive and receive forgiveness from the God who gives it freely.



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Small Group

Picture this scene: Moments before children's church is scheduled to begin, a leader stands in the corner of the room with their face buried in some papers labeled "Small Group Lesson." They seem oblivious to the kids moving quickly and loudly all around them. A bead of sweat rolls down their face. The clock ticks loudly as they read at a fevered pace. Have you seen this leader? Are you this leader? There's no judgment here! We get it — life is often really busy and finding the time to volunteer, much less prepare, can be tough. But by investing just a small amount of time into preparation, you can go from being a good leader to a great one. Here's how:

Read your lesson ahead of time. You saw that one coming, didn't you? When the kids arrive, it's game time. When you've read the lesson ahead of time, the kids get your full attention from the moment they walk in. When small group begins, you'll be able to lead much more effectively if you're not trying to figure the lesson out for yourself at the same time you're explaining it to your group.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Many of the small group activities in the GO! curriculum have materials that go with it. When you read the lesson at home, you might have a picture of what the materials look like, but double check to make sure what you imagined matches reality when you arrive at church.

Prepare your own heart. The best way to lead the kids in your group is through example. Consider reading the Bible story ahead of time and asking yourself how it applies to your own life. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you how you need to change in light of this story.