



October 13

I am Forgiven

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Jacob and Esau- Genesis 27-33

Bottom Line: I Can Be Forgiven

Leader Context: Jacob made choices that deeply hurt Esau, and Jacob in return ends up running away because he's afraid of his brother. Years later, God told Jacob to return home. When God called Jacob to return home, he was met with forgiveness rather than judgment. We get to teach kids that we can be forgiven no matter what. There is no sin too big for God to forgive, so we never need to be ashamed or afraid.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Social

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Marker (several), Blank papers (several), Plastic cups (several)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

Jacob learned that even though he messed up and made wrong choices, he could be forgiven. That's true for us too. We can be forgiven by God. Say, "I can be forgiven!" (*I can be forgiven!*) Jacob tricked his father and stole the family blessing from his brother, Esau. Jacob's wrong choice, or sin, had big consequences! He ran away from home and was away from his family for many years. Jacob's sin broke his relationship with his family. His story reminds us that we all need forgiveness.

Videos

Gospel Connection: (using the 4 Gospel Circles)

(Circle two) We make wrong choices too, don't we? There are always consequences, or things that happen, because of the wrong things we think, say, and do. Jacob's wrong choices broke his relationship with his brother, and our wrong choices break our relationship with God. No matter how hard we try, we can't fix it.

(Circle one) God's plan from the beginning was for people to follow Him and trust Him. That's the relationship we were all designed for!

(Circle three) We do not always follow God, but nothing is too big or bad for God to forgive! No matter what you have done or how badly you think you have messed up, you can be forgiven by God. He sent Jesus to offer us forgiveness—a forever forgiveness. Our sin broke our relationship with God and Jesus came to fix that relationship. He forgives us—not because we deserve it, but because He loves us. We can't ever be good enough to earn God's forgiveness. We can know that He loves us so much, He forgives us freely.

(Circle Four) Do you know that God loves you so much, and you can always be forgiven by Him, no matter what? God reunited two brothers when it seemed that they might have been separated forever. God can also fix our broken relationship with Him!

If you have any questions about what it means to be forgiven, ask me or your campus leader. We would love to help you understand more about what it means to be forgiven and have a relationship with God. Everyone, say, "I can be forgiven!" (*I can be forgiven!*)

Forgiveness Tree (20 minutes)

Kids will design a tree and write wrong choices on the top, then cover those choices with leaves.

Big Goal: Remember God forgives and helps us grow.

Leader Prep: Set out the supplies.

1. Tear the brown paper into four pieces. Squeeze and roll the pieces to make them look like a tree trunk and three branches.
2. Glue the trunk and trees to the blue paper.
3. Write *actions, words, and thoughts* above the branches, one word above each branch. Younger kids can cut out the words or try to write them in.
4. Color leaves yellow, red, and orange.
5. Glue the leaves on top of the words and around the branches.

Supplies: Forgiveness Tree Printable (1 of each page per kid), Brown construction paper (1 per child); Markers or crayons (several); Glue sticks (1 per child); Child-safe scissors (1 per child); Dry erase board and marker (1 per group)

What To Do: We've been learning about how we can be forgiven. God forgives our *sins*, which is when we do what we think is best rather than what God says is best. We can sin with the things we do, say, and even what we think. But God can forgive all of those things! So let's make a reminder of that good news!

First, tear your brown paper into four pieces. Those will be a tree trunk and three branches. Glue your trees onto your blue paper. (*Allow kids to complete this step.*)

Next, write words above the "branches." You will write *actions, words, and thoughts*. Don't write too big because you will be covering the words up as a reminder that your sin can be forgiven. (*Allow kids to complete this step.*)

Now, color the leaves red, yellow, and orange and cut out leaves for your tree. Glue the leaves over the words and around the branches.

Loud And Clear: Your trees look amazing! Sin can make us feel upset, angry, or even disappointed in ourselves. But there is good news! We can be forgiven! God loves us, and He is always willing to forgive us, no matter what. When you look at your tree, think about the words that you covered up, and remember that God forgives you. You can be forgiven!

Discussion Questions:

What To Do: *Let's talk about our Bible story and how God switches it up!*

1. Tell us about someone close to you. Is there anything that person could say or do that you wouldn't forgive? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
2. The Bible tells us we can be forgiven. Let's open our Bibles to **Genesis 32:9-10a** and read about forgiveness together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* What do you think Jacob was feeling and thinking when he was on his way to see Esau? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)* How can it help us when we know that we can be forgiven? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
3. No matter what you've done or how badly you think you've messed up, you can be forgiven by God. What's the difference between trying to be good enough to earn forgiveness and knowing that we can be forgiven because God sent Jesus? *(We can try to be good enough, but it is never good enough. We can trust that God loves us and will forgive us no matter what.)*
4. If someone felt like they had done something wrong—like really wrong—what does what we learned today teach them about God? *(We can be forgiven by God, no matter what we've done.)*
5. The Bible tells us we can be forgiven. God can switch it up and forgive our sin, even when we have really messed up! What is something encouraging you will remember from today? Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)* Let's talk to God by praying. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

Thank You, God for sending Jesus and making a way for us to be forgiven. Help us be honest about our sin and the wrong choices we make that go against what You want for us. Help us remember that we can't fix our sin problem on our own, but You can. We can be forgiven and have a relationship with You when we ask. Help us trust You and always follow You. Amen.

In today's Bible story, Jacob made wrong choices and broke his relationship with his brother, Esau. Much later, Jacob received forgiveness from his brother. When we make wrong choices, we can ask God for forgiveness, and we can be forgiven too. God sent Jesus to forgive our sin and make a way for us to have a relationship with Him.

Going Home

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.