



October 27

I am Forgiven

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Jesus Taught About Forgiveness- Matthew 18:21-35

Bottom Line: I Can Forgive Others

Leader Context: Jesus' parable of the servant debts helps us see the heart behind forgiveness. We get to teach kids that when we remember how much God has forgiven us, it can help us be kind and forgive others. His forgiveness can help motivate us to forgive others.

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, 3-by-5-inch index cards (1 per child); Masking, painter's, or clear tape (1 per group); Pencils (1 per child); Dry erase board and marker (1 per group)

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

When Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone, Jesus didn't answer with a number but with a story. He helped Peter and everyone else know there isn't a number to forgiveness. He wanted all people to know that we can forgive others. Say, "I can forgive others!" (*I can forgive others!*) This story from the Bible teaches us that God forgives us. And because God forgives us so much, we can forgive others.

Videos

Gospel Connection:

(Circle two) We need forgiveness because we all sin. *Sin* is whenever we do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Our sin separates us from God and breaks our relationship with Him. It also breaks our relationships with others. Sin makes it difficult to be kind and loving toward others. It also makes it difficult for us to forgive others when they aren't kind and loving toward us. No matter how hard we try, we can't be good enough to fix our relationship with God or fix our relationship with others on our own.

(Circle three) But there is good news! Say, "Good news!" (*Good news!*) The good news is that God loved people so much, He switched it up by sending Jesus. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin by dying on a cross. He took our place! Three days later He came back to life. Jesus showed He was more powerful than sin and death. He's the only One who can forgive our sin. When we trust in Jesus and ask Him for forgiveness, we can know that God says yes!

(Circle one) Trusting and following Jesus means we can have the relationship with God and with others that God designed from the beginning. God's forgiveness makes us new. We become children of God who love Him and love others.

God has forgiven us *so much!* Say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) Because He has forgiven us so much, we can forgive others. God loves and forgives us when we don't deserve it. So we can forgive others, even when we think they don't deserve it. Say, **"I can forgive others!"** (***I can forgive others!***) If you have any questions about what it means to be forgiven by God, talk with your Team Leader. We would be excited to help you learn more about what it means to have a relationship with God!

Safety Tip: It's important for kids to know that forgiving someone doesn't mean you pretend that what happened didn't happen. You don't have to stay in a relationship with someone who isn't safe, even when you do forgive them. Be sensitive to kids who may be in this situation. Be ready and available to have these conversations.

Happy Hearts (20 minutes)

Kids will decorate hearts, cut them into pieces, put the pieces back together, and glue pieces onto construction paper.

Big Goal: Remember God helps us forgive and heals our broken hearts.

Leader Prep: Set out the supplies. Cut the blank paper into quarters ahead of time (1 per child). Write I am forgiven and I can forgive others on the dry erase board.

- Draw a heart on the quarter sheet of blank paper.
- Decorate the heart by filling it with circles to represent coins.
- Cut out the heart and then cut it into three pieces.
- Glue the heart back together onto construction paper.
- Draw a large heart around the glued-on heart. Fill the large heart with coins.
- Write I am forgiven and I can forgive others on the paper.

Supplies: Blank paper (several), Construction paper (1 per child), Child-safe scissors (1 per child), Glue sticks (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several), "Happy Hearts" Instructions and Example printable (1 per group; optional)

What To Do: In our Bible story, Jesus talked about two servants—one who owed a lot of money and one who owed a little money. When we think about forgiveness, we can remember that God has forgiven us so much, and that forgiveness can help us forgive others. Let's make pictures to help us remember our Bible story and how we can forgive others.

First, draw a heart on your blank square of paper. Fill your heart in with lots of circles, representing coins. Once you finish, cut out your heart and cut it into three pieces. Then, put it back together as you glue it in the middle of your construction paper.

Now, draw a bigger heart around your small heart. Fill that heart up with coins too. Finally, write I am forgiven on the top of your paper, and write I can forgive others on the bottom of your paper.

Leader Tip: Assist kids in drawing their hearts. Rotate around and assist with writing the words as needed.

Loud And Clear: Since we all make wrong choices and sin, we all need to be forgiven by God. And God forgives us every time we ask. When the first servant in the Bible story thought about how much he'd been forgiven, he should have wanted to forgive the other servant who only owed a little. When we remember how much God has forgiven us, that forgiveness helps us to forgive others. God's forgiveness makes us new, like the new heart you made!

Discussion Questions:

What To Do: Let's talk about our Bible story and how God switched things up!

1. What are some crazy videos you've seen or even things you've experienced where someone makes a big, messy, or crazy mistake that makes people laugh? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
2. The Bible tells us we can forgive others. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 18:21-22 and read about it 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.)* It can be hard to forgive someone when they don't say sorry or if we don't think they deserve forgiveness. How can this Bible story help us in those situations? *(When we remember how much God has forgiven us, it helps us to forgive others.)*
3. How can we describe how much God has forgiven us? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
4. Have you ever wondered, Do I have to forgive someone if I don't feel like it? What do you think God wants us to remember when we feel that way? *(Nothing anyone says or does will be as bad as our sin that Jesus died for and forgave.)*
5. The Bible tells us we can forgive others. God's forgiveness can help us forgive others. 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.)*

God, thank You for always forgiving us when we ask! Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Help us to always remember how much You have forgiven us so we can forgive other people, even when it might be hard. We love you! Amen.

Jesus told a story that helped people see that because God has forgiven us so much, we can forgive others. We know how it feels to be forgiven by God, so we can forgive others.

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.