

Forgive and Let By

Kids Small Groups: 4th-5th Grade

September 24, 2017

Bible Story: Forgive and Let By (Forgive one another) • *Colossians 3:13; John 21:1-17*
(Supporting: *John 18:1-27*)

Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another.

Key Question: When a friend hurts you, how do you respond?

Memory Verse: “A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes.” Proverbs 17:17, NIV

Life App: Friendship—using your words and actions to show others you care.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

GET READY

The following supplies will be prepared ahead of time for Elementary Kids Small Groups this week and can be picked up from the Upper Resource Room on Sunday Morning:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Group, 15 minutes) (Choose as many of these activities as you would like.)

1. Just for Fun

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

- No supplies needed

2. Wows & Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

- No supplies needed

3. Get Your Head in the Game

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

- Bandanas, 1 per person
- *Optional:* jump ropes, hula-hoops, basket/soccer balls

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 15 minutes)

Large Group Video: Movie @ 11:10 a.m. in the Children’s Worship Center

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Group, 35 minutes) (Choose as many of these activities as you would like.)

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

- 4 large pieces of chart paper
- Painter's tape
- Large washable markers

2. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

- Bibles
- Dice
- Sticky notes
- Pens or thin markers
- *Optional:* timer

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

- Lined paper (one sheet per person)
- Different color pens or thin fine tip markers
- *Optional:* timer

5. Making it Personal with Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

- No supplies needed

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction **(Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, pray that they would be prepared to hear what God wants them to hear today. Pray for the kids who tend to hold grudges or dwell on the wrong things others have done to them. Ask God to give kids hearts of forgiveness toward their friends and to recognize when they need to ask their friends' forgiveness themselves.

1. Just For Fun

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask:** Would you rather have the ability to erase memories from your own mind or the ability to erase memories from someone else's mind? Why?
 - **Another Option:** What do you think about telling secrets? Do you think they're good or bad? Or can they sometimes be both?
 - **Let** students discuss the answer to the question.
 - **Encourage** them to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.
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2. Wows and Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** each kid about a good thing (a Wow) that happened during the week and a bad thing (a Pow) that happened during the week.
 - **Encourage** each child to share at least one Wow.
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3. Get Your Head in the Game

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bandanas; 1 for each kid, *Optional:* jump ropes, hula-hoops, basketballs, or soccer balls

What You Do:

- **Ask** students to partner up.
- **Pass out** 2 bandanas to each group.
- **Encourage** them to stand side by side so that one shoulder, arm, and leg are touching.
- **Help** them to tie one bandana around the two arms that are touching and another one around the two legs that are touching.
 - Together they should have 3 arms (one left, one center, one right) and 3 legs (one left, one center, one right).
- **Call** out different things for them to try and do in a 3-limbed relay like 3 push ups, 3 sit ups, 3 jumping jacks, wall sits for 30 seconds, sitting in a chair and getting back up 3 times, racing to the wall, etc.
- **Help** them untie each other and set the room back up like it was.

***Pro Tip:** If you have room and supplies, they could also try to jump rope, hula-hoop, and dribble/kick. Encourage the students to work together to figure out how to take turns with those items.*

Wrap up and Say:

“What did all those exercises have in common? Right! You used 3 limbs and did things 3 times. Today’s Bible Story is about a guy who says he loves Jesus, but he denies it when things get hard—3 times in one day! Does he deserve forgiveness? Let’s head to Large Group and find out.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways **(Large Group, 15 minutes)**

Lead your group to the ***Ms. Teresa Children’s Worship Center at 11:10 a.m.*** for the Large Group Movie Video. Please sit with your Small Group in the Worship Center and enjoy the movie.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect **(Small Groups, 35 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: 4 large pieces of chart paper, painter's tape, large washable markers

What You Do:

- **Recruit** a few volunteers help to write:
 - "Home" on one sheet of paper and hang with the masking tape in one corner of the space.
 - "School" on another sheet and hang it in a different corner.
 - "Activities" on the third sheet and hang in another place.
 - "Car" on the last sheet of chart paper and hang in last available corner or space.
- **Ask** everyone to take a marker and spread out around the room so that there are just a few people at each paper category.
- **Tell** them that today's biblical principle on Forgiveness comes from Colossians 3:13. The first part says, "Put up with one another . . ."
- **Challenge** them to add some things to the sheet they're near that they have to "put up with" from people in the location or during the time that's written.
 - For example, at school: what do they have to put up with? You could even clarify: what types of things do they have to forgive other people for doing there?
- **After** a minute or two (or when you can see that the writing and discussion at each page is slowing down), ask everyone to move clock-wise to the next corner and paper, taking their marker with them. (You may need to help show them which way to go.)
- **Remind** them to read what the people before them wrote—they can add new things to the page or they can add a star, exclamation points, question marks, or a comment if they want to add on to something already there.
- Once they've been to all four corners, **talk** about what they noticed on the pages. Are there themes or patterns? Did anything stand out to them?
- Help kids put a positive spin on all the stuff they "put up with" in everyday life—that these things give us more chances to forgive our friends and work on not staying mad or constantly annoyed.

2. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bibles, dice, sticky notes, pens or thin markers, *optional:* timer

What You Do:

- **Ask** kids to get in groups of 3.

- **Pass** out one Bible to each group or let them use a Bible app on their phones if they have them.
- **Pass** out about 10 sticky notes and a pen/thin marker to each group.
- **Tell** them that they will create a chain of events based on what they read—they can stop every few verses to write down one event on each post it or they can read the whole chapter and go back to summarize the events.
- **Challenge** them to figure out who’s going to do what (but all kids will work together to interpret the passages):
 - 1 person to be the reader
 - 1 person to be the roller/timer
 - 1 person to be the writer.
- **Ask** the roller/timer to roll the dice for their group. They will read a specific passage based on what they roll.
 - Roll 1 or 4: read John 13
 - Roll 2 or 5: read John 21
 - Roll 3 or 6: read John 18
- **Remind** them to focus in on Jesus and Peter when they read their chapter.
- **Ask** the reader to read out loud. Everyone can help the writer figure out what to write on each sticky note.

***Pro Tip:** If they seem confused, you could read a few verses out loud from one of the passages and help them come up with a few events to put on the notes.*
- **Remind** them that if they forget something or want to change something, sticky notes can easily be moved or rearranged.
- **Give** them five minutes to read their chapters and write down their chains of events.
 - The group member who is the timer needs to give his or her group warnings if they are getting close to running out of time.
- When the time runs out, **challenge** them to walk around and read the other groups’ chains of events.

Wrap Up and Say:

“Peter not admitting that he was Jesus’ friend and follower must have hurt Jesus even though He knew Peter would. But still Jesus forgives and trusts Peter to play a big role in sharing Jesus’ story with the world. Jesus knows that we’re going to mess up, but He still forgives us and invites us to be part of what He’s doing now.

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- What are some things that are easy to forgive?
- What are some things that are harder to forgive?

- What do we worry will happen if we forgive people who have hurt us? Or what keeps us from forgiving our friends?
 - How many times do you think you should forgive a friend? Is there a max?
 - Does forgiveness mean everything goes back to the way it was before?
 - What happens if we don't forgive? What do our friendships look and feel like if someone needs to forgive someone else but doesn't want to do it?
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4. Verses to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Lined paper (one sheet per person), different color pens or thin fine tip markers, *optional:* timer

What You Do:

- **Get** students to gather up in small groups of 4 to 6 and make a circle.
- **Pass** out the paper and pens/markers so that everyone has one of each—ideally each person in the circle will have a different color pen.
- **Ask** each person to think of a situation where he or she (or someone they care about) is having a problem forgiving someone else.
- **Challenge** each person to write it down at the top of his or her page in as many words as he/she likes. Another idea would be to draw a comic-strip-type sketch that shows the situation.
- **After** a few minutes, encourage them to pass their papers clock-wise one person.
- **Explain** that they have 45 seconds to read what the other person wrote or see what they drew and then add any comments, encouragement, or ways to respond like things that have worked them you in similar situations.
- While they are doing this, **look up** Ephesians 4:32.
- After kids have passed their papers 3 or 4 times, instruct them to **return** the papers to their original owners.
- **Ask** person to find a space on his or her page or on the back to write this verse (show them the large version to make it easier to copy).
- **Encourage** them to take this page home and put the verse where they can see it.

***Pro Tip:** The goal is for them to get at least 4 different people's thoughts on their situation. They will be able to tell when there are 5 different colors or handwriting on the page. Because other people's thoughts are on the page, they might be more likely to take it home.*

5. Making it Personal with Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** them why forgiveness is such a big deal? **So what?** Why is it important?
- **Then** ask them what they're going to do next. **Now what?** What's one thing you can do this week to take a step toward forgiving the way Jesus did?
- Before they leave, **ask** them to close their eyes so you can pray and send them out.
 - You could also open it up to a couple volunteers who pray and then close in prayer yourself, using the example below as a starting point.

Dear Jesus, help us this week to be the type of friend you are. You forgive us over and over. Help us to be kind to others this week. We want to be generous friends who believe the best and not the worst in other people. Help us to remember that we aren't perfect and that You still choose not to hold everything we do wrong against us. We want to forgive others when they hurt us and move on in healthy ways. Be with us this week and remind us to practice forgiveness when we have the chance. In Jesus' name, amen.