

Lesson 6

Forgiveness

Forgiveness

Ages 2-5

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for bringing us all together today. Please help us learn more about you and your son Jesus. Amen."

Discussion:

Ask the children if they know what forgiveness means. Ask them who is supposed to forgive.

Bible Story:

Read the verse Colossians 3:13.

Discussion:

Talk about the verse that you read. Ask them again who is supposed to forgive. Emphasize that we are supposed to forgive others and that God forgives us. Talk about how we can show people that we forgive them.

Activity:

In order to help the children visualize forgiveness give each of them a small chalkboard and chalk. Show them how to scribble on their chalkboard. Then have them erase their scribbles. If you do not have small chalkboards you can give each of them a turn on a large chalkboard. Explain that the scribbles are like the bad things we do and God "erases" them away when we ask for forgiveness.

Craft:

Have the children draw a picture.

Materials Needed:

Paper

Crayons or Markers

Give the children the materials. Have them draw a picture of something that they can do to show a friend or family member that they forgive them, for example a picture of them giving a friend a hug, a picture of them smiling, etc.

Activity:

Show the Gift of Forgiveness

Materials needed:

Empty box that is gift wrapped

Have the children sit in a circle. Explain to the children that forgiveness is a gift that we give to people when they hurt our feelings, but it is something that can not be seen. Talk about the different ways that we can ask someone to forgive us when we hurt their feelings. Show them the box. Tell them that the box is like the gift of forgiveness. Have the child on your right tell you something that a child might need to ask for forgiveness for. Then have them say ask for forgiveness as discussed previously. Have the children continue to pass the box around the circle in this manner until the box has come back to you.

Song:

Sing I Forgive You (to the tune of Barney's *I Love You* song)

I forgive you,
 You forgive me,
 We forgive each other,
 Can't you see,
 With a great big hug,
 And a kiss from me to you,
 Won't you join us,
 And forgive too.

Closing Prayer to thank God for forgiving us and to ask for help in forgiving others. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to us. Thank you for your love. Keep us safe in your care. Amen."

Ages 6-8

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together again on this day. Help us to learn from your words and to follow in your footsteps. Amen.”

Discussion:

Ask the children what forgiveness is. Ask them if they are supposed to forgive or just God.

Bible Story:

Read the bible verse Colossians 3:13.

Discussion:

Ask the children again who is supposed to forgive. Talk about what forgiveness is and what it means when we forgive and are forgiven.

Activity:

Show the Gift of Forgiveness

Materials needed:

Empty box that is gift wrapped

Have the children sit in a circle. Explain to the children that forgiveness is a gift that we give to people when they hurt our feelings, but it is something that can not be seen. Talk about the different ways that we can ask someone to forgive us when we hurt their feelings. Show them the box. Tell them that the box is like the gift of forgiveness. Have the child on your right tell you something that a child might need to ask for forgiveness for. Then have them say ask for forgiveness as discussed previously. Have the children continue to pass the box around the circle in this manner until the box has come back to you.

Drama:

Have the students get with a partner. In partners have them role play asking a friend or family member for forgiveness for doing something they should not have, such as playing ball in the house or going outside without asking. They can take turns asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness.

Activity:

Give the students small chalkboards or marker boards. Have them write the word sin on it. If you do not have small marker boards or chalkboards you can use a large one and give each student a turn to write on it. After they have written the

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word sin tell them to say, “Please forgive me.” Then take an eraser and erase their word. Explain to them that is how forgiveness works.

Art:

Have the children draw a picture.

Materials needed:

Paper

Markers or Crayons

Give the materials to the students. Have them draw a picture of what they think forgiveness looks like.

Closing Prayer to ask thank God for His forgiveness and to ask for help in forgiving others. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for forgiving our sins. Please help us to forgive others. Help us to follow in our footsteps and keep us safe this week. Amen.”

Ages 9-11

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to fellowship with each other once again. Please help us to learn from your words and do the things you want us to do. Amen."

Discussion:

Ask the students what forgiveness is. Ask them if they forgive their friends and family. Ask them if they ask God for forgiveness.

Bible Story:

Have the students read Colossians 3:13.

Discussion:

Ask the students who is supposed to forgive. Talk about how forgiveness works.

Craft:

Make a forgiveness paper.

Materials Needed:

Paper
Washable markers
Contact paper

Give the students each a piece of paper and markers. Have them write the bible verse at the top and draw a picture of what they think forgiveness looks like. Then help them cover the contact paper. Once their papers are covered in contact paper have them use the washable markers to write the word "sin." Then have them wipe off the word with a wet paper towel as they say, "Please forgive me." Explain that is how forgiveness works. Then tell them that they can write their sins on the paper, and as they ask for forgiveness they can clean them off with a wet paper towel.

Activity:

Have the children play the bean bag toss game.

Materials needed:

Bowl or bucket
Masking tape
Bean bag

Place the bucket or bowl on the floor, then about 5 or 6 feet back place a strip of tape, for the standing line. Have the students take turns trying to throw the bean bag into the bucket. When someone misses have the children determine how many times that person should get in order to make it into the bucket. Play for as long as you like, but make sure that each student has at least one turn. When you are done playing ask them to tell you again how many tries they decided that they should get to make it in if they messed up the first time. When they tell you their answer ask them how many chances they give their friends and family when they mess up. Talk about how we should forgive our friends and family and give them many, many chances.

Closing Prayer to thank God for His forgiveness and to ask for help in forgiving others. For example:

“Dear God, thank you so very much for forgiveness of our sins. Please help us to forgive just as you forgive us. Please keep us safe in your care. Amen.”

Ages 12-14

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together once again to worship you. Please help us to be open to learning more about you. Help us also to follow in your ways. Amen.”

Discussion:

Ask the students if they have ever sinned. Ask them if people have ever sinned done anything that has hurt them emotionally. Ask them if they are supposed to forgive or if God is just supposed to forgive.

Bible Reading:

Have the students read Colossians 3:13.

Discussion:

Ask them how their view of forgiveness has changed after reading the passage. Ask them again who is supposed to forgive. Ask the students how they can show others that they forgive them.

Activity:

Have the children play the bean bag toss game.

Materials needed:

Bowl or bucket
Masking tape
Bean bag

Place the bucket or bowl on the floor, then about 5 or 6 feet back place a strip of tape, for the standing line. Have the students take turns trying to throw the bean bag into the bucket. When someone misses have the children determine how many times that person should get in order to make it into the bucket. Play for as long as you like, but make sure that each student has at least one turn. When you are done playing ask them to tell you again how many tries they decided that they should get to make it in if they messed up the first time. When they tell you their answer ask them how many chances they give their friends and family when they mess up. Talk about how we should forgive our friends and family and give them many, many chances.

Art:

Have the students make cards.

Materials Needed:

Colored paper
Markers

Give the students two pieces of colored paper each. Have them make two different cards. One card should be an “I’m Sorry” card. The other card should be a “Your Forgiven” card. Have them write the apology card from themselves to God. Then have them make the forgiveness card as if God sent it to them.

Closing Prayer to thank God for forgiving us of our sins and to ask for help in forgiving others. For example:

“Thank you Lord for your forgiveness. Please help us to forgive others. Keep us safe in your name. Amen.”