

DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
THREE

MARCH 2020

GRADES
2-3

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another.
Forgive one another if
you are holding something
against someone. Forgive,
just as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13, NIV

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that
someone who has wronged
you doesn't have to pay

BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step
to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers
Balancing Act

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Anything Ever" from *At the Top of My Lungs*
"Never Gonna Be" from *At the Top of My Lungs*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Who, What, When, Why?
One Step Forward, Two Steps Back
Memory Verse Steppin'
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container

BALANCING ACT

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pencils; one for each kid
- Music (optional)

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY?

[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:

- A Bible
- Print the "Who, What, When, Why?" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Sticky notes; four for each kid
- Pencils

*** 2. ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Forgiveness Scenarios" Activity Pages and cut apart; one set for each small group
- 20 half sheets of construction paper
- A die
- Scissors

3. MEMORY VERSE STEPPIN'

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- Four pieces of paper
- Scissors
- Pens
- Floor tape (optional)

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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24



PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13, NIV

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

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your few would learn something new about God and learn something new about forgiveness. Ask God to give them courage to be brave and take a step toward forgiveness with their friends and family.

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group as they arrive. Invite kids who've brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather kids on one side of your Small Group area, and stand several feet away.
- Play "Small Group Leader, May I?" (based on the game "Mother, May I?").
- Kids will take turns asking questions like, "Small Group Leader, may I take three big hops?" You will answer, "Yes, you may" or "No, you may not." (NOTE: Kids should replace "Small Group Leader" with your actual name while playing the game.)
- If you choose to answer, "No," add a qualifier like, "No, you may not. Only kids wearing red shirts may take three big hops."
- Play until at least one child reaches you.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

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someone who has wronged
you doesn't have to pay

BOTTOM LINE

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to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

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I want to be treated.



MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and
taps into the energy in the body

2. BALANCING ACT

WHAT YOU NEED: Pencils, music (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to stand and spread out as much as possible in your small group area.
- Give each child a pencil to balance on their head.
- Play upbeat instrumental music or sing a silly song.
- As the music plays, kids must walk around your small group area balancing the pencils on their heads.
- If a pencil falls, they must freeze and cannot move again until another friend picks up their pencil for them. (The friend who helps may hold his own pencil in place while helping.)
- Stop the music at regular intervals to allow kids to reset their pencils.
- Play as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"If you dropped the pencil in this game, what happened? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! You couldn't move until someone stepped up to help you. **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we'll learn about how stepping up can make a big difference in our relationships with others."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

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Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

MEMORY VERSE

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.



IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates
biblical application through role-play and reenactment

1. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY?

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, "Who, What, When, Why?" Activity Pages, sticky notes, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Matthew 5:23-24.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the verses aloud to the group.
- Pass out an Activity Page, four sticky notes, and a pencil to each kid.
- Discuss the verses and ask the questions below.
- As you answer them together, encourage the kids to write down their own answers on a sticky note and stick it on the Activity Page in the appropriate spot on the page.
- WHO: Who is this verse talking about? (*Us*)
- WHAT: What are these verses saying? (*Forgive first and be quick to forgive*)
- WHEN: When and where should we do this? (*BEFORE anything else*)
- WHY: Why is this an important truth to apply to our lives? (*Because forgiveness fixes the relationship*)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you read your Bible, it's important to ask questions like these. Who is this written to? What is it saying? When or where should I do this? Why is it important? Today's verses remind us that forgiveness fixes things. Why is it hard sometimes to ask for forgiveness or to forgive someone else? Do you sometimes just want to stay mad? How does choosing to stay mad hurt your relationship with others? (*Allow a few moments for kids to respond.*)

"Before we do anything else—even before we worship God—we should make things right. When we've hurt someone, the first thing we should do is to ask for forgiveness. When someone hurts us and wants forgiveness, we should give it! Jesus tells us that forgiveness comes first. Refusing to forgive or make things right not only hurts our relationship with others, it also hurts our relationship with God. He loves you and He's forgiven you. Let's **take the first step to forgive others.**"

[Make it Personal] (*Tell your few about a time when you chose to forgive someone instead of holding onto your anger. If you could share an example from around the time you were the age of the kids in your group, that would be ideal. Either way, make sure your example is age-appropriate.*)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

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LIFE APP

**Forgiveness—Deciding that
someone who has wronged
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BOTTOM LINE

**Take the first step
to forgive others.**

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

* 2. ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper, a die, scissors, "Forgiveness Scenarios" (Activity Page)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into two teams.
- Use the half sheets of construction paper to create a life-sized game board, laying out the 20 half-sheets of paper in a serpentine pattern.
- Write "START" on the first page at one end and "FINISH" on the last page at the other end.
- Shuffle the "Forgiveness Scenarios" and keep them facedown.
- Select the child with the closest birthday to today to go first.
- The first player will roll the die and move the appropriate number of spaces on the board.
- Then that player will select a card, read the scenario, and move forward or backward, depending on what the card says.
- Continue, allowing kids from each team to take turns rolling the die, moving that number of spaces, drawing a card, and moving forward or backward accordingly.
- Encourage kids to make room for everyone as they move through the board. There will likely be a few times when kids end up on the same space in the game.
- The first team to get one player to the finish line is the winner!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Why do you think you had to move backward when the scenario was an example of someone refusing to forgive? How is moving forward in this game like a picture of what happens when we take steps to forgive? In each of these scenarios, something happened that either wasn't fair or was hurtful. It's natural when we're hurting to want to hurt the other person back or to stay angry. But that won't fix it. Jesus tells us that forgiveness comes first. Do just ONE thing to help fix the relationship—to 'take a step' toward the other person. That can mean you save them a seat at lunch, even though they said they would be your reading partner today but then they picked someone else. Or it can mean you let your brother borrow a few LEGO® pieces even though he lost them last time. Let's make sure we **take the first step to forgive others** so we can protect our relationships with the people around us."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
ACTIVITY



MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

BIBLE STORY

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LIFE APP

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BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

3. MEMORY VERSE STEPPIN'

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, scissors, Bibles, markers, floor tape (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up and review Colossians 3:13 together as a group.
- Cut four pieces of paper in half to create eight cards.
- Pass out the cards and let the kids work together to write out three words of the verse on each card. (The last card won't necessarily have three words, depending on the Bible translation you use.)
- When they're finished, collect the cards and spread them out on the floor in verse order.
 - *Optional:* Tape the cards to the floor.
- Make sure the cards are far enough apart so the kids must take BIG steps to get from one set of words to the next.
- Line up the kids at one end of the verse cards.
- Let the kids take turns stepping from one card to the next as they say the words of the verse aloud.
- Make sure one kid gets all the way from start to finish before the next kid starts.
- Repeat until all kids have had a turn to walk the path and recite the verse.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse reminds us to forgive when we're holding something against someone. Why is it better to forgive than to stay mad or try to prove that we're right? (*Pause for responses.*) When we take steps toward forgiveness, we have a better chance of fixing what's broken. In fact, it's so important that Jesus says we should try to fix the relationship even before we worship Him. When you're tempted to stay mad, ask God to help you choose to forgive instead. He will always help us **take the first step to forgive others.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

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BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step
to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to sit in a tight circle together with their knees bent and feet flat on the floor in front of them.
- Encourage the kids to put their hands on their shoes as you pray that God would help them to **take the first step to forgive others** this week.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Let's pray. God, thank You for loving us and for always choosing to forgive us, even when we don't deserve it. When we're tempted to stay mad or refuse to forgive, help us to make the wise choice and choose to fix the relationship instead of just being right or making a point. We want to be a good friend and to love others the way You love us. So this week, help us to **take the first step to forgive others**. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share with their parents what God tells us to do first, even before we worship him!