

WEEK 3

FORGIVING

Theme

FORGIVING like Jesus

Memory Verse

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Bible Verses

1 John 2:1-2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Big Idea

Why is FORGIVING like Jesus important?

Goals

- ➡ Give examples of different ways of FORGIVING like Jesus. How did Jesus model this? How much should we forgive? Who should we forgive?

WARM-UP

Keep them in the air!

What you need

Balloons (not helium)

What you do

Have the kids gather in a group. See how many times they can hit the balloon to keep it in the air. If they need an additional challenge, have them use two balloons

What you say

You guys did a great job! That balloon wanted to float down to the ground, and it took teamwork and quick hands and feet to keep it up in the air. Our natural human tendency when we are wronged is to sink down, get angry and get back at them. Forgiveness takes some work! Today we are going to learn more about forgiveness: what it takes to forgive and why we should forgive.

OBSERVATION

In this skit Red will have a conflict with the teacher by ruining a surprise

Teacher: Welcome back! We are so excited about what we are going to talk about today, but I am SUPER excited because we have a special treat for everyone later this morning! Before we get into that, we are going to do our sharing time.

Sharing Time: Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

OK, now let's review our five Red Letter challenge words:

Go through the different hand motions and themes. Try to get a rally going with half the room calling words and half the room doing actions: then switch it up!

Teacher: You guys did so well; you really deserve something extra special. And it is perfect timing because I am SOOOOO excited about the end of this lesson. It is a surprise! I don't want anyone to spill the beans. I have been keeping this secret all week and I really don't want you to find out now because I have managed to keep it quiet for so long...

Red: CUPCAKES!

Teacher: What did you say Red?

Red: I'm sorry! I can't keep it in anymore! I'm so excited. I have to tell them that we are all getting our own cupcake! And they are red velvet, and so sweet and soft and super yummy and we even get to decorate them ourselves...

Teacher interrupting.

Teacher: Hold on! Red! Why did you just tell them the secret? This was my big surprise. And now it's ruined.

Red begins to look sheepish and down at his feet.

Red: Oh man, I'm sorry, I know it was supposed to be a secret and we weren't supposed to tell the kids... (looks out at the crowd of kids) ...sorry kids.

Teacher: Well, I don't know if we should even have cupcakes anymore Red. It's not going to be a surprise maybe we should forget the whole thing. Kids, should we just forget the whole thing?

(Kids shout NO!)

Teacher: I don't know. I'm pretty disappointed that this isn't a surprise anymore. It's just...a cupcake. I know he was just excited though, so I guess that leaves just one thing I can do. Does anyone know what I should do?

(allow crowd participation for response)

Teacher: Forgive him! Right. I need to forgive Red for spilling the beans like that. It sure isn't going to be easy though.

Teacher walks over to Red.

Teacher: Red, I am going to give you something.

Red: What is it? A cupcake?

Teacher: No, it's not a cupcake. It is forgiveness.

Red: Forgiveness?

Teacher: Yep. I am going to forgive you for tell the kids what the special surprise was. I am not going to stay mad and try to get back at you. I am going to still be your friend.

Red: Wow. Thanks! I'm sorry that I did that. I should have done a better job of keeping that secret. It must be really hard to forgive me; I could tell you were really disappointed.

Teacher: Well, I was disappointed. But guess what? I mess up too. I let people down all the time. Romans 3:10 says that there is no one righteous, not even one. That's why when Jesus forgave my sins on the cross: He also forgave your sins Red: and the sins of every boy and girl here! He forgave the sins of the whole world! He doesn't remember all the bad things I did and so since Jesus forgives me, I can forgive you Red.

Red and Teacher hug.

Red: Thank you. Boys and girls, do you forgive me too for telling you what the surprise was? You do? Will you also still pretend to be surprised when we tell you what the surprise is? OK, ready? Here we go. But you have to scream and act super SUPER surprised. Let me see your best surprised face...Wow, that was really good.

Teacher: OK here we go: boys and girls you are going to get your own CUPCAKES!!

Kids act surprised and scream!

Dismiss.

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

Activity 1: Treasure or Trash?

Ages: K - 3rd

What you need

A couch, a chair or just a cushion or comforter, small items to hide

What you do

Place some trash and some treasure (coins, candy, little toys, etc) in your couch/chair or under your blanket and see the kids reach down and get different items! Pull each thing out and identify it as trash or treasure. Then talk about some examples of things that we may hide in our lives that we don't want others to see. Possible examples:

- ➡ We sneak candy from our pantry
- ➡ We watch more screen time than we should
- ➡ Instead of cleaning our room we just shove everything in the closet or under the bed
- ➡ We took our sister's toy and broke it and put it back without telling her
- ➡ We lied about a broken chair even though it was us who broke it

What you say

Do you ever find treasures under your couch cushions? Just like we have to forgive when people mess up our stuff or ruin our surprises: we also know sometimes we mess up too: just like a couch that looks clean on the outside but might be messy underneath! We are going to take a risk and reach under these cushions and find out if we find a treasure or trash! Are you ready?

Sometimes just like messy things can creep under our couch cushions, we can try to hide the bad things that we do. We may act like everything is fine on the outside, but deep down underneath we are messy. God helps us to be honest about our life and find trustworthy people to tell things to.

Activity 2: Portrait Time!

Ages: older ages

What you need

White board or chalkboard, markers, pens

What you do

Have the children think about what Jesus might do in modern day situations: brainstorm or come up with some ways Jesus might respond to some of the things we may see today. Write the following scenarios on the board or just say them out loud.

- ➡ Someone sending a mean text about someone else
- ➡ A bad word is on the TV
- ➡ Someone takes your game and loses all your lives
- ➡ Someone cheats on a test

What you say

Jesus Christ is God. If we want to see a picture of God, we can look at Jesus! He sent Jesus into this world to reveal to us what God is like, what is character is like, how he would act, how he would respond in certain situations that you or I might go through.

Activity 3: Stone Activity (Forgiving Ourselves)

Ages: older ages

What you need

Smooth grey stones (enough for one per child), washable markers, a bucket or wading pool of water, a towel

What you do

Write something that you feel bad about or did wrong on a stone. Drop it into the bucket of water or pool and let the writing dissolve away.

What you say

We have to forgive people when they do things that hurt us, and we also sometimes make mistakes and have to be forgiven. Write or draw it on a rock a mistake or regret you have and then go over to the pool and wash it off. This will help us remember that through our baptism God offers us forgiveness of sins!

Activity 4: Cupcake Boss!

Ages: all ages

What you need

1 unfrosted sugar cookie or cupcake per child (make sure you have gluten-free options for those kids who have allergies), frosting, paper plate for each child, plastic knives, a variety of sprinkles.

What you do

Give each child a treat to decorate.

What you say

When Jesus gives us forgiveness and takes our sins away: is so sweet, just like the treat we are about to get! Because Jesus loves us so much he died for us and can offer us forgiveness of sins and take our sins far away! 1 John 2:1 says it this way: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

Activity 5: It's all about dat Forgiveness

Ages: younger ages

What you need

Parachute, various kinds of balls

What you do

Have the parachute down on the floor with balls of various shapes and forms spread around it. Have half the children gather around the parachute and pick it up. Now tell

them to shake the parachute and try to get all the balls out. Balls will begin flying out and the other half of the children need to run around and try to keep the balls in the parachute.

Have them switch places and try it the other way.

What you say

Today we learned how Red had to practice forgiveness when Fred stole his cupcake. When people do things to hurt us like take our treats or toys or use our things without asking, we can get frustrated. We can want to get them back and be angry at them. Forgiveness isn't something we do once a day, or even 10 times a week. Forgiveness is always happening! We need to be forgiven and we need to forgive as well.

Just like we had to constantly keep putting the balls back into the parachute, we keep forgiving people.

Activity 6: Healing our Hurts

Ages: all ages

What you need

Butcher paper, variety of Band-Aids (enough for each child to have 2), writing utensils

What you do

Draw a big outline of a human on the butcher paper. Make sure there is enough room for every kid to write or you to write words on the inside.

Go around the room and first brainstorm what God has said about them. Write down those positive things on the paper human.

Then go around and write in some things that people have said to them that were hurtful or mean or they've heard someone else say. Write those hurtful words down on your human. Have everyone take their Band-Aid and take turns coming up and covering the mean words up with a Band-Aid until all the mean words are covered.

What you say

Words can hurt us and leave permanent marks. Forgiveness can cover up those mean words and help us only see the good things that God sees and calls us.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Forgiveness seems easy until we try to do it ourselves, then we realize it is very hard. When someone treats us unfairly or hurts us, we want to get them back. But Jesus you died for us, even though that's not fair. You made it possible for us to be in your Kingdom, and we aren't even always thankful for that! Help us to remember what you did for us when we have to forgive. Give us the strength when it is just too hard and we can't do it. We love you Jesus and thank you for forgiving us.

Amen

WEEK 3

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KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

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Big Idea

Why is FORGIVING like Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

Forgiveness was the theme this week! Sometimes kids find it easier to forgive than adults do! Forgiveness is something we start teaching our kids at a young age, because we can all understand what it feels like to be hurt by someone.

Forgiveness is something that is so easy to talk about, but really hard to actually do. For kids, we start with the importance of obedience before understanding. We don't always understand completely how forgiveness works, or even why we need to forgive, but actually saying the words out loud and keeping them from getting revenge is the first steps in the lifelong lesson of practicing forgiveness.

Share your own personal stories of how you've been hurt and had to forgive. Use everyday events like someone cutting you off on the road or a mistake at a restaurant or even times when you have to break a promise you made to your child to talk through forgiveness. We forgive our children, and sometimes our children have to forgive us! When offenses happen in a family, use those as starting points to talk about forgiveness and healing.

Challenge: ways your child can FORGIVE this week:

- ➡ Write some sins that you have committed on the rocks below, or write some sins that you are angry at someone else about on that rock. Instead of throwing those rocks: drop them at Jesus's feet. He will take care of it all for you. Pray about the things you wrote on your rocks.
- ➡ Forgive someone today. Don't just say, "It's OK" or "No problem!" Actually say, "I forgive you."