

FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

A 40-DAY FORGIVENESS
ADVENTURE



ZACH AND ALLISON ZEHNDER
WEEKLY KIDS CHURCH CURRICULUM

FORGIVING CHALLENGE KIDS

CHILDREN'S MINISTER LETTER

HELLO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS:

We are excited to be able to offer you this Sunday school curriculum written for *Forgiving Challenge Kids*. The best way to use this curriculum is to accompany it with the *Forgiving Challenge Kids* book, available for purchase at www.redletterchallenge.com. This book will walk students through 40 days focusing on the 5 phases of forgiveness: the Mess Up, The Fess Up, the Clean Up, the Rise Up, and the Step Up.

We encourage you to use the following format:

- **WARM-UP** • **OBSERVATION** • **INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION** • **PRAYER** •

This suggested format will allow you a foundational framework for your class time. If you already have a flow that kids are familiar and comfortable with, feel free to modify what we have provided to keep the model that works for you.

Please also keep in mind that this program is geared towards a large age span: from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Teachers will need to consider their age group as they are choosing their activities and modify content as needed. The first half of the program is the same every week. There will be a warm-up activity as well as a scripted lesson that can be used in a variety of ways, but the content will not change.

- **Warm-up** (Learning readiness)
- **Observation** (What happened? What does it say?) This is the script or teaching time every week. This is where kids will be hearing and watching the main teaching of the day. Feel free to use actors, puppets, or even an older kid volunteer to do this teaching time.

The second half of the program is where options will be provided. Every lesson will have six different activities to choose from. We would love for you to read through them and pick and choose the activities that will best suit you. These activities will be one or both of the following:

- **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)
- **Application** (What does it mean to me?)

A weekly handout will be provided for parents. This handout will cover what we did that week and also any announcement about the future week and challenges for them to do during the week.

One idea you may like is to keep a "Challenge Chart" in the front throughout the 40 days. You can get some red dot stickers and have the students put up a red dot sticker every time they complete a Challenge that week. See how many red stickers you can put up, and maybe try to increase it every week! This is for fun and to create a measurable and visual way for kids to see the Challenge in action!

One last note: We are ALL about Challenges and putting our faith into action. But as much as we love Challenges, we love Jesus first and foremost. Understanding His grace, plan, and purpose for us is absolutely foundational to everything we do. **It all begins and ends with Jesus.** As His followers, we are excited to Challenge kids to learn more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We always stress that we aren't learning what a disciple of Jesus does to get on the team: we're already on the team! Not only that, but the game has been played and the victory is ours. Now that's some good news!



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 1 | INTRODUCTION TO FORGIVING

Theme

Introducing Peter and the 5 Phases of Forgiveness

Memory Verse

*Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." **Luke 5:5***

Bible Verses

Luke 5: 2-11 *He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Big Ideas

- ➡ Jesus's forgiveness is where it all starts.
- ➡ Everyone will have to practice both forgiving others and being forgiven themselves.
- ➡ Jesus calls Peter to be a "fisher of men."
- ➡ Jesus also wants us to follow Him and be fishers of men.



FORGIVING CHALLENGE KIDS

WEEK 1 | WARM-UP/OBSERVATION

WARM-UP

THE BACKPACK BURDEN (K-5TH GRADE)

What you need: backpack, heavy items like canned goods or hand weights, masking tape, chairs, or other miscellaneous items to set up a small obstacle course

What you do: Set up an obstacle course or relay race. Have students take turns going through the course without the backpack “burden.” Add the burden into the backpack. Have students take turns wearing the backpack and telling how heavy it feels as they walk around the room. Start to remove the weights and ask how it feels now. Have the students all wear the empty backpack at the end.

What you say: To have a grudge is to keep a feeling of anger or meanness toward someone. Grudges are heavy burdens. It’s much easier to go without a heavy load! Holding onto things that hurt us or make us mad ends up hurting ourselves. Forgiving people who have hurt us makes us feel better and our own lives easier, because we don’t carry around those bad feelings anymore.

OBSERVATION: SKIT

Prep: Prepare costumes. Find volunteers for the Red character and Peter character. Get a plastic sword.

DIRECTOR’S NOTES: In this introduction to our characters and forgiveness, Red the Fox is returning as our lovable and silly sidekick. He is accompanied by Peter the disciple. Together, these two will embark on a 6-week journey of not just learning about forgiveness, but being challenged to put forgiveness into practice.

CHARACTERS:

Red - *Is a character that appears in our Red Letter Challenge Kids book: specifically, in the stories from Redvale and for our Red Alerts! Red is a speaking red fox from the land of Redvale. He likes to bring humor to any situation. The children will get to know his personality and enjoy these regular visits. Red can be portrayed by a leader, a puppet, or a dressed-up character. A distinguishing mark on Red is his red bandana. If this character is to be played by a leader: find a red hat, T-shirt and/or bandana that will be used throughout the 6 weeks. Even if the leader needs to be interchangeable, the “costume” stays the same!*

Peter - *Is one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. Peter is visiting and is able to look back on his life. Peter’s personality and story will be told throughout the 6 weeks of Forgiving Challenge Kids. Peter can be portrayed using Biblical-themed clothing. Brown sandals, a bathrobe or tunic would be appropriate.*

(The words in italics are notes for the Leader and the puppeteer or Red character; they are not to be read aloud.)



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 1 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Welcome boys and girls! I am the disciple Peter. I am so happy I can be with you today. We are going to spend the next 6 weeks talking about forgiveness. That can be a very tricky subject. Thankfully I have my friend, Red, here to join me. Hey there Red!

Red: Hi Peter! Hey there boys and girls! I am so so happy to be here!

Peter: We are too Red! I am excited to learn more about forgiveness and how we can have more of it. Everything I have learned about forgiveness, I learned from my master, Jesus, who has forgiven all of us.

Red: (*cutting in*) Yes, yes, I already know about forgiveness.

Peter: You know all about forgiveness?

Red: Yes. I have heard it a thousand times. Jesus died on the cross and forgave us. That is the right answer every time in Sunday School.

Peter: You are absolutely right, Red! Jesus DID die for our sins so that we can learn to be forgiven and forgive others. Now we can learn to be forgiving people. We won't always understand it. Our memory verse for the day is the first thing I ever said to Jesus after He told me to go back out and fish. I thought he was nuts. I said, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." **Luke 5:5**

Red: Well, it's not for me.

Peter: What do you mean, not you?

Red: I am forgiven by Jesus. But I don't need forgiveness from my friends. I don't hurt them. I'm a good friend.

Peter: Red, everyone hurts someone sometimes, even if it's an accident. That pain can feel like a heavy backpack. Like the one you guys were carrying around in the Warm Up.

Red: Not me.

Peter: You know Red, I used to think I was more important than the other 11 disciples. In every list in the Bible, my name is always listed first. I was the "disciple line leader!" I was also the spokesman of the group. I was always mentioned first in any list of disciples. In fact, I'm referred to almost 200 times in the New Testament, and more than 5 times the amount of any other of the twelve. I also had the most important role in the first 12 chapters of the book of Acts, where the first church started.

Red: It sounds like you were really important.



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 1 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Not at all! I was an unschooled and ordinary man. (**Acts 4:13**) Jesus gave me a special job to do, but that didn't make me more special than anyone else. I used to think I was better than others. And boy, did I have a temper! I could swing from happy to sad in one second.

Red: Remind me to never get on your bad side!

Peter: (*Laughing*) Don't worry Red. God has done a LOT of work in my life, and I no longer need to push myself ahead to feel okay. But I had to realize my actions really hurt the other disciples.

Red: But I would never hurt my own friends. I can forgive them, but they won't need to forgive me.

Peter: We all will mess up sometimes Red. I messed up BIG time once, and I was totally trying to do the right thing. When Jesus was being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, I grabbed my sword and was prepared to fight.

- (*Peter pulls a plastic sword out of his robes.*)

Red: Woah! Settle down there Petel!

Peter: It's okay! I don't plan on hurting anyone today. But I hurt someone that night. I actually cut off someone's ear. I was trying to cut off his head, good thing I had such bad aim!

Red: (*still looking nervously at the sword*) You really do have an anger issue.

Peter: I'm not proud of it, but yes, I did. Thankfully Jesus healed the man. In fact, I don't even remember there being a scar.

- (*As he is talking Peter swings the sword around and almost cuts Red.*)

Red: Yikes! Let's not try to give anyone a scar today, Peter!

Peter: Sorry about that Red. You know, the word SCARS is how I remember the 5 phases of forgiveness.

Red: Ok, I'll learn them. But remember, it's only to forgive someone else. I don't hurt others.

Peter: Here it goes, repeat after me:

- S** (SIN) Mess-up
- C** (CONFESSION) 'Fess-up
- A** (ABSOLUTION) Clean-up
- R** (RESTORATION) Rise-up
- S** (SANCTIFICATION) Step-up

I know those are some grown up words. These 5 phases aren't going to be easy. But I am excited to learn more about forgiveness. What about you Red?



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 1 | OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

OBSERVATION (CONT.)

Red: You can't say "Ready!" without "Red!"

Peter: Haha! That's right! See you next week boys and girls!

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 1 THE "UP'S"

Ages: K - 5th Grade

What you need: Nothing

What you do: Introduce hand signals for the five phases of forgiveness to help kids memorize them. Lead your group through the following hand motions. Practice multiple times until they have it down.

Mess-up (make a jumble sign with your hands)

'Fess-up (praying hands)

Clean-up (sweep the floor)

Rise-up (swing arms overhead)

Step-up (take steps like you are walking upstairs)

What you say: As we work through the five phases of forgiveness, it is important that you know them by memory. One way to get something to memory is by using motions. Let's practice those now!

ACTIVITY 2: A NET-FULL OF FISH

Ages: K - 3rd Grade

What you need: Paper plate, scissors, construction paper, popsicle sticks, glue or tape, yarn or string

What you do: Make a fishing boat. Cut a paper plate in half, and decorate it like a boat. Glue a sail with construction paper, and add fish to the sides. Write BYSSIW, (because you say so, I will) on the side of the boat. As the kids are working on their boats, read the verses and discuss the questions.

What you say: The very first time Jesus met Peter, He performed a miracle! Let's read about that in **Luke 5**. (Younger kids: have a couple of volunteers act it out as you read it aloud. Older kids: give them a chance to take turns reading to the group.)



WEEK 1 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 2: A NET-FULL OF FISH (CONT.)

What you say (Cont.): **Luke 5:2-7** *He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*

How many fish did Peter catch during the night? What was Peter's answer when Jesus told him to go back out after a long night of fishing? How much fish did Peter catch after Jesus went out with him? Why do you think Jesus wants Peter to go back out?

ACTIVITY 3: ERASE-A-SKETCH

Ages: K - 5th Grade

What you need: Etch-a-Sketch, magnetic drawing board, erasable sketch pad, other writing toy

What you do: Have students draw examples of sins on the Etch-a-Sketch. Remind them that Jesus didn't wait until Peter was perfect before going to him. Erase the Etch-a-Sketch. Discuss how this is how Jesus sees our sin, completely erased and gone.

What you say: God's forgiveness is like this Etch-a-Sketch. He is the only one who can make sin disappear. No matter how hard you try, you can't make your pictures reappear. When we learn how much God has forgiven us, we can learn how to forgive others.

ACTIVITY 4: FOLLOW WHICH LEADER AGAIN???

Ages: K - 5th grade

What you need: Nothing

What you do: Have two or three students (depending on the size of your group) come up to the front. Remind the group that only one of them is the actual leader. The other volunteer is just going to pretend to be the leader, but it's a secret and no one knows who the real leader is. Start playing "Simon Says." Don't tell kids which leader to follow, but let them choose what to do. After the game, discuss whether it is difficult to pick a leader, and if it's confusing when multiple voices are trying to direct you.



WEEK 1 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 4: FOLLOW WHICH LEADER AGAIN??? (CONT.)

What you say: We are going to play Simon Says, but in a different way. I am going to pick 2 or 3 different volunteers, but there will only be one real leader. Two will be fake leaders. No one will know which is which. Your job is to choose to follow one, hopefully you can choose the right one!

Before we start, I am going to read the second half of our scripture today to learn about what happens when Jesus calls Simon Peter to follow him.

Luke 5:8-11 *When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

ACTIVITY 5: MEMORY WORK

Ages: K- 3rd Grade

What you need: Paper fish (Addendum #1), markers

What you do: Write the memory verse on the paper fish cutouts, one word per fish. Mix in some blank fish cutouts with no words on them.

Have the children stand in a circle around the papers (nets) on the floor, and take turns picking up the fish and to see if they can catch a fish with a word on it.

If a child turns over a paper with a fish taped to the back, ask him if he knows what the word is on the fish. Have him place the word in a separate pile. Once all the fish have been caught, have the children put the memory verse in order.

*Alternative:*s Hang a string or net up in the room and have the children clip the fish to the net with clothes pins in the correct order or make a game out of memorizing the verse to see who can memorize the fastest (4th/5th grade).



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 1 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION/PRAYER

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 5: MEMORY WORK (CONT.)

What you say: We are going to use these fish to help us figure out our memory verse for the week. Each fish has a word from the verse. Repeat after me:

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5:5.

Peter and Andrew didn't have much luck fishing the night before. Jesus told them to go out again, they found more fish than they could ever have dreamed. This was no coincidence! This was a miracle! Let's see if you can catch some fish today.

ACTIVITY 6: SNACK TIME!

Ages: K - 5th Grade

What you need: Goldfish snacks (or other allergy-sensitive snacks), napkins

What you say: Peter and Andrew were fishermen. Jesus performed a wonderful miracle. He filled their nets so full of fish the boats almost sank. Jesus takes care of us when we follow Him.

What you do: Serve a napkin filled with goldfish, like a net of fish. Discuss what a miracle this was.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Forgiveness is complicated and hard. When we look at it, it can seem like an impossible mountain to climb. That is what makes the miracle of dying on the cross and taking our sin so much more amazing. We are so thankful for your plan to save us, and we ask that you continue to show us not only how you have forgiven us, but how we can also become forgiving people.

We love you Jesus,

Amen



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 1 | INTRO TO FORGIVING KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

Theme

Introducing Peter and the 5 Phases of Forgiveness

Memory Verse

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." **Luke 5:5**

Bible Verses

Luke 5: 2-11

Big Ideas

- ➡ Jesus's forgiveness is where it all starts.
- ➡ Everyone will have to practice both forgiving others and being forgiven themselves.
- ➡ Jesus calls Peter to be a "fisher of men."
- ➡ Jesus also wants us to follow Him and be fishers of men.

Dear Parents:

In *Forgiving Challenge Kids*, we will take the next six weeks to look at forgiveness from the perspective of Peter in the Bible. What were his mess-ups? What did he have to 'fess up to? What mess needed to be cleaned up? How did Peter rise up after? When Peter got forgiven, what step up did he take in his life? Forgiveness always requires an honest look at ourselves, so encourage your child(ren) to talk to you about each phase and be transparent about your journey. Watch for our weekly challenge!

Challenge:

What are the 5 phases of Forgiveness?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____



WEEK 2 | THE MESS-UP (SIN)

Theme

The first of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Mess-Up (Sin)

Memory Verse

“Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance?” Micah 7:18

Bible Verses

John 18:15-18, 23-27 *Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.*

“You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.”

It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Peter’s Second and Third Denials

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Big Ideas

- ➡ Sin is where we miss the mark.
- ➡ Sin separates us from God.
- ➡ A Mess-up happens when we are stepping outside of God’s leading.
- ➡ Forgiving always starts with a Mess-up.



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 2 | WARM-UP/OBSERVATION

WARM-UP

MISSING THE MARK (K-5TH GRADE)

What you need: Bucket, one small ball *Optional items:* masking tape, sheets of newspaper wadded up for “balls”, or other things to throw

What you do: This is a simple game of eye-to-hand coordination. Place the empty bucket at the end of the room. Have the children line up behind a line on the floor. From the line, have the children try 3 times to throw a ball into the bucket. Repeat until everyone has had a turn.

Extra Challenge: To make the game more fun, have more than one target, or more than one type of object to throw. You can change the distance needed to throw, keep score, blindfold the thrower, etc.

What you say: Explain that the word sin originally meant “missing the mark.” When we choose to do what is wrong instead of what is right, it is called “sin.” This is because we are “missing the mark” of what God wanted for us. In our lesson today we are going to hear about a BIG Mess-up that the disciple Peter did.

OBSERVATION: SKIT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Red makes a huge blunder by taking a friend’s phone. Make sure you have a phone prop handy. Red takes his friend’s phone without permission.

Peter: Welcome back boys and girls! I am so glad you are back with us today. I am Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples. Me and my friend, Red the Fox, are going to be talking to you about forgiveness for these next 5 weeks.

Red: Hey friends!

Peter: Last week we learned that forgiveness is also an invitation to follow Jesus. But it is not something that happens quickly. It can be a slow process.

Red: Like waiting for the next iPhone to come out.

Peter: You’re really into iPhones aren’t you, Red?

Red: Yep! And I want the newest iPhone 15 really REALLY bad!

Peter: It’s out now isn’t it Red?

Red: YES! I know all about the features! It even has FOX-ID! And it has the latest cameras, and it’s download speed is incredible, and it has lidar, and....



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 2 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Woah there Red! Slow down. How do you know about all these features? It sounds like you have gotten to experiment with one.

Red: (Red looks guilty.) Well, ummmmm....

Peter: (Putting his hands on his hips) Reeeeed. Where did you get your hands on a new iPhone 15?

Red: I sort of borrowed Karley's.

Peter: What do you mean "sort of borrowed"?

Red: I took it from her purse and brought it home.

Peter: That's stealing! That's really not ok. Karley is probably looking all over for her phone right now.

Red: I know. I turned off tracking so she wouldn't figure me out.

Peter: Red. Do you have the phone now?

Red: (Looking guilty). Yeeaaahhh. This is a major mess-up right?

Peter: Yeah it is. I know what it feels like to Mess-up. In fact, I messed up not just one, but three times.

Red: What did you do?

Peter: I denied that I ever knew who Jesus was. To save my skin I abandoned my very best friend.

Red: I can't believe you would do that, you love Jesus so much. You even were one of the main disciples!

Peter: I know, that's what made it even worse. When Jesus was arrested, I was afraid that I would be arrested too. I didn't want to be stuck in prison, so I told three different people that I didn't know Him. The first one was a servant girl.

Red: You were afraid of a servant girl?

Peter: Yep. Even to that girl who was completely harmless, I lied to save my skin.

Red: That's pretty cowardly.

Peter: You can say that again. Then I denied I knew Jesus to a crowd around a fire, and finally to a man who was there in the garden when Jesus was arrested. He recognized me and I was terrified. I lied and said I didn't have any clue who Jesus was.

Red: Did Jesus ever find out?



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 2 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Believe this or not boys and girls, but he even warned me that I was going to betray him before he was even arrested. Here is what it says in the Bible:

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me." And after He said this, the outspoken Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.

Jesus knew all along this was going to happen. I told Him He was crazy and I would never do that. Little did I know how weak I was....

Red: He knew you were going to betray Him and He stuck with you anyways?

Peter: Yep. Just like He knew you would take Karley's phone. Jesus doesn't leave us when we Mess-up. I want to read a passage about exactly how well Jesus knows us:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1: 4-5)

God knows us from the first second of life, and He will stick with you even in the darkest times. Our Mess-ups can feel like the blackest part of night. That's when I denied Jesus for the last time.

Red: Yeah, I feel pretty awful right now.

Peter: Right after I denied Jesus, the rooster crowed three times. Roosters crow when the sun is getting ready to come up. Mess-ups can feel pretty crummy, but the darkness will pass and the sun shines again.

Red: I don't know how I am going to tell Karley.

Peter: That's going to be tough, Red. Boys and girls, today in your activities you are going to learn about the Mess-up, or SIN in our lives. When we Mess-up, we feel separated from God and from each other.

Red: I've got a pretty bad Mess-up to deal with.

Peter: It's important to remember this, that no matter how bad our mess-ups get, nothing is so bad that Jesus can't forgive us.



WEEK 2 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 1: HURTS ON THE INSIDE

Ages: K-3rd Grade

What you need: Heart on paper page Addendum #2, markers or other writing utensils, Band-Aids

What you do: Open up a Band-Aid and write FORGIVENESS on the top of it (the non-sticky part of it). Stick the bandaid on the heart over your hurts. Remind yourself of what Jesus says about you, and how you can forgive those who hurt you because He forgives you.

What you say: Think about your cuts on the inside. Write them on the heart below. Sin creates hurts in our hearts. Peter was heartbroken. The Bible says he cried bitterly. Sin hurts, but Jesus's forgiveness heals.

ACTIVITY 2: THE POWER OF JESUS' BLOOD

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Paper, markers (light pink, yellow, and peach), red cellophane

What you do: Have students write things God has told us not to do (i.e. disobeying parents, stealing, lying, etc.) on the piece of paper. Lay the red cellophane over the paper and see how the writing "disappears."

What you say: Jesus died on the cross for our sin as payment for them and His blood gives us salvation. Jesus's blood "cleans" our hearts and God chooses to ignore the sin we had done as though it did not happen.

- What does sin do to our relationship with God?
- How did Adam and Eve pay for their sin in the Garden of Eden?
- How do we pay for our sin if we don't come to God for forgiveness?
- What was required to pay for our sin?
- Why does God want to forgive us, even when we may have done very bad things?
- Will everyone be forgiven of their sin and go to heaven? Why or why not?



WEEK 2 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 3: A CLEAN HEART

Ages: K-3rd Grade

What you need: Piece of white paper, hearts to cut out, crayons

What you do: Give each student a piece of paper and a heart shape to cut out. Have the student cut out the heart. Lightly glue (with a glue stick) the heart onto the paper. The heart will be pulled up later, so just have them lightly glue the edges. Use a crayon to color all over the heart and onto the edges of the paper so that it is colored all around the heart. It might help to not tear the heart if they color from the middle of the heart to the outer edges. Remove the heart shape to see their “clean” heart underneath. Write our memory verse around the heart.

“Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance?” Micah 7:18

What you say: Tell the students when people do or say things that hurt us, it can make our hearts feel bad. Next, tell the students when they choose to forgive other people that hurt them, they will not feel bad about those people anymore.

Discuss the following questions:

- Are you a friend of Jesus?
- Was Peter Jesus’s friend?
- Why did Peter deny Christ?
- What are some ways we can “deny” Christ?

ACTIVITY 4: MEMORY WORK

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Balloon, a soft ball or even a stuffed animal you could gently throw around, timer app or stopwatch, bibles *Optional:* Sticky notes or tape

What you do: Say the memory verse several times so everyone remembers it.

“Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance?” Micah 7:18

Assign each player a word or phrase from the verse. Gather them into a loose, standing circle, but not in verse order. Have the group toss the balloon around as quickly as possible, while saying the verse in order. Everyone must hit the balloon at least once. See how quickly you do it the first time, and then challenge them to do it even faster.



WEEK 2 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 4: MEMORY WORK (CONT.)

What you say (Cont.): Play a few rounds and see if they can get it under a minute. If you are playing as a small group just have fun tossing the balloon or item back and forth while trying to say the verse as fast as you can!

Optional: For younger kids, put a piece of tape or sticky note on each kid's shirt with their corresponding number in the verse order. This way, kids at least know who the balloon needs to go to next.

ACTIVITY 5: PRAYER TIME

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Nothing

What you do: Sit in a circle. Go around the circle and have each student pray for the person on their left.

What you say: "Heavenly God, when we Mess-up, help us to ask for forgiveness and try to make it right. Help us also to forgive people that hurt us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

ACTIVITY 6: WHEN SIN TWISTS US UP INSIDE

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Thin licorice or Twizzler ropes

What you do: Read the following scenarios to the students and tell them to tie a knot in their licorice rope if they think it would make them mad or upset:

- You and your brother are playing together in your room. Your brother wants the toy you have and knocks you over to get it. You hurt your arm. Tie a knot in your rope if you think this would make you mad.
- Your sister lies to your dad and tells him you did something you really did not do. Tie a knot in your rope if you think this would make you mad.
- Your friend comes over to play and doesn't help Clean-up the mess before going home. If this would make you mad, tie a knot in your rope.

What you say: Look at your licorice ropes. Being angry and upset at other people makes us feel "twisted" up or bad inside. How do you think Peter felt when he betrayed Jesus three times?



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 2 | PRAYER

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being our God who made us and loves us. You made this world perfect, but because of sin, Mess Ups happen. Sometimes it's an accident, but other times it is on purpose. Please forgive us for the times we have messed up. Give us courage to come to you and tell the truth. Help us to know that there is nothing too big that You can't handle.

We love you Jesus,

Amen



FORGIVING KIDS CHALLENGE

WEEK 2 | THE MESS-UP KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

Theme

The first of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Mess-Up (Sin)

Memory Verse

“Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance?” **Micah 7:18**

Bible Verses

John 18:15-18, 23-27

Big Ideas

- ➔ Sin is where we miss the mark.
- ➔ Sin separates us from God.
- ➔ A Mess-Up happens when we are stepping outside of God’s leading.
- ➔ Forgiving always starts with a Mess-up.

Dear Parents:

We found it’s easy to point out other people’s messes, it’s alot harder to admit when we have messed up. Either, it’s no fun when Mess Ups happen. Everybody messes up, but not everyone knows how to deal with the Mess Up after it happens. In our story Red the Fox steals something really valuable, and Peter shares how he messed up three times in a row. Thankfully no matter how ugly our Mess Ups are, Jesus ALWAYS can handle it. When we run into His arms, He helps us face even the scariest situations.

Challenge:

Everyone deals with conflict differently. Make a chart like the one below so each family member can mark what they think they are after a Mess Up. Learning to recognize how we deal with emotions and Mess Ups helps us figure out problems when they come along. Rather than fight or flight, Jesus wants us to go to Him with our feelings. When we pray, read the Bible, and seek wise counsel. After all, Jesus didn’t fight or flight, He died and rose to be our Light!

NAME	FIGHT (I WANT TO TALK IT OUT, LET'S FACE THE MUSIC!)	FLIGHT (NO WAY, GET ME OUT OF THERE! I AM GOING TO GO HIDE NOW.)
1 Your Name	✓	
2 Your Name		✓



WEEK 3 | WARM-UP/OBSERVATION

WARM-UP

TEN TOES CHALLENGE (K-5TH GRADE)

What you need: A large roll of paper, crayons (1 or 2 per child)

What you do: Tape a large piece of paper to the floor. Have the kids try to hold a crayon in between their toes to color on the paper on the floor. It might be easier if they sit in a chair.

What you say: When Jesus was alive it was important to wash people's feet because they wore sandals and their feet would get dusty. Today we are going to see if we can write our name with our feet. This is a funny challenge, but it shows that our feet are pretty important. They may not be able to color as well as a hand, but they can sure get us around!

OBSERVATION: SKIT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: The disciple Peter and Red learn what a confession actually is. They discuss what follows confession, and how Jesus came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life for others by washing other's feet.

Peter: Good morning boys and girls! I am so glad to see each and every one of you. I saw your bare feet in our Warm Up! That was pretty funny. I want to see if your hands can do what your feet do. All of you can walk on your feet, but can anyone do a handstand or walk on their hands?

- (Give some time for demonstration or attempts if space allows.)

I think feet better stick to walking and hands stick to writing and drawing! It always works best when we are doing what God made us to do.

Red: I don't think God created me to do handstands.

Peter: Me either, Red! Last week we talked about how our Mess-ups, or SIN, puts us outside of God's will.

Red: I think I know what you're going to talk about. When I messed up by taking that phone right?

Peter: (Looking serious) I hope you have returned that phone you took from Karley and apologized.

Red: BORROWED, remember BO-RROWED... not took. I'm not a thief. Well, not Really. But yes, I put the phone back in her purse when she wasn't looking. Then I told her everything I was going to do. First I am going to wash her car, then I am going to get her an Apple gift card, then do her dishes for a week, then I am....



WEEK 3 | THE 'FESS-UP (CONFESSION)

Theme

The second of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The 'Fess-Up (Confession)

Memory Verse

"... But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love ..."

Nehemiah 9:17

Bible Verses

John 13:3-17 *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

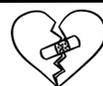
He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Big Ideas

- ➔ We can forgive others even if they don't deserve it.
- ➔ Our forgiveness removes the stain of sin.
- ➔ When we are honest about our hurts or sin, we will find we are not alone.
- ➔ It's tempting to hide our sin, but forgiveness allows us to be honest about who we are.



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 3 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Hold on Red. I am really happy you are trying to make it right. But did you tell her what you did?

Red: No, I don't want her to be mad at me. She looked so happy when I was telling her everything I was going to do for her.

Peter: All of us Mess-up. What's important is what we do after we sin. An apology is more than just paying back someone, though. An apology actually has three parts: OWN IT, SHOW IT, ASK IT. Boys and girls, repeat after me, OWN IT, SHOW IT, ASK IT.

OWN IT - when you Messed Up, or confess that you did something wrong.

SHOW IT - in your actions and words. Let them know you are truly sorry.

ASK - how can you make it right?

Red: But I had so many awesome ideas, she was so excited.

Peter: You had GREAT ideas! But you are missing the point. I did the same thing when Jesus asked to wash my feet.

Red: Wait, Jesus washed your feet?

Peter: He did, and all the other disciples too. He wanted to make a point that we can only get clean through Jesus. After He washes us we can also follow Him and serve others.

Red: But dirty feet are so gross! They are a flavor of the tricky-icky jelly beans. YUCK!

Peter: I was so topsy-turvy. First I refused to let Jesus wash my feet. Then I told him, if this will make me clean, then wash my whole body! I missed the whole point.

Red: Wow.

Peter: I still wasn't understanding that 'Fessing-up gives Jesus control. I wanted to make everything happen on my own.

Red: Kinda like what I am doing with Karley?

Peter: A little. I get where you are coming from, but sometimes a simple "I'm sorry" is what someone needs to hear.

Red: Geez. I messed up after my Mess-up.

Peter: Don't worry Red. Confession takes practice. After I messed up three times by denying Jesus, I still didn't understand. I thought I was done for, so I just gave up and went back to fishing. I never confessed, but Jesus still forgave me.

Red: That's what I feel like doing sometimes.



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 3 | OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: God never gives up on us. He sent Jesus to die and rise so that our Mess-ups, and even our lame 'Fess-ups don't have to keep us away from Jesus. Paul writes about that forgiveness to Timothy:

Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on:

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever. 1 Timothy 1:15-16 (The Message)

You can always apologize. It can be scary, but I know you can do it.

Red: I'm going to go back to Karley and try again.

Peter: I think that's a good idea. Let's pray for Red, boys and girls. It's not easy to 'Fess Up when we've done something wrong. Let's pray about that now:

Dear Jesus, please help Red apologize. Give him bravery as he faces Karley. Thank you for being our Savior, even when our 'Fess-ups are not always perfect. We love you.

Red: Thanks guys. Well here I go! Bye!

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 1: THE FORGIVENESS BOX

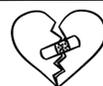
Ages: K - 5th

What you need: A box full of papers with the following scenarios. Modify the number of "Mess-Ups" to fit your sized group.

What you do: Show the "Forgiveness Box" and invite one child at a time to take a piece of paper out of it. Read each statement and ask questions such as the following:

Has this ever happened to you? How would it make you feel? What should the person who made you unhappy or angry say to you? What should you do or say to a person who has been unkind to you or who has made you unhappy or angry?

What you say: Tell about a time when you personally forgave someone and how you felt. Help the children understand that Heavenly Father and Jesus want us to be forgiving for our sake. Unforgiveness leaves us sad and broken.



WEEK 3 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 2: WASHING FEET

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Towels and buckets of water (*for easy cleanup, wipes can be used)

What you say: Jesus was the very greatest person to ever live. Although He was a sinless person, it didn't stop Him from taking a servant's job of washing other's feet. Now we don't often wash people's feet, but what are some other ways that you can help the people in your life?

Peter was a strong and confident man. Jesus even changed his name from Simon to Peter and the name Peter means "rock." But when Jesus was arrested and things got scary, even Peter pretended he didn't know Jesus because he was afraid of what the people might do to him if he admitted he was one of Jesus' friends. On three different occasions people asked Peter if he was a friend of Jesus, and each time he said that he didn't know Jesus at all. After Peter had "denied" Christ three times, a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered that he had told Jesus that he would never deny Him. Peter was very disappointed in himself and he cried. It is easy for us to say Peter was a "chicken" or a "scaredy-cat," but we need to be careful we don't deny our friendship with Jesus like Peter did. We can "deny" Jesus by choosing not to tell people we go to church and believe in Jesus.

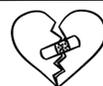
What you do: Sit in a circle around the bucket. Have one child come up at a time and get their feet washed. Depending on your situation, you can do the washing, or have some volunteers do it! They will get a kick out of washing their friend's feet. (*Not everyone will want their feet washed. If a child prefers, they can get a "shoe polish" instead, taking a wet wipe and cleaning their shoes.) After everyone's feet are cleaned, talk about Jesus washing Peter's feet. Discuss how you can be a servant to others.

ACTIVITY 3: TRUTH OR...TRUTH?

Ages: 4th and 5th Grade

What you need: Print off the questions in Addendum #3. *(You can also make up your own using questions that fit your group.), pencils or pens. Make sure everyone has the same kind of writing utensil. Anonymity is key here!

What you do: Have each student answer the questions anonymously. Use similar pencils or pens.



WEEK 3 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 3: TRUTH OR...TRUTH? (CONT.)

What you do (Cont.): Please stress the importance of them not putting their name on it or showing their answers to anyone else. Collect all sheets of paper and then mix them up. Hand them back out to different kids. As you ask the questions, have the kids raise their hands or stand for YES according to what their sheet says, NOT their own answer.

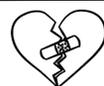
This activity is intended to show that we ALL are sinners and have messed up. There isn't any paper with that has nothing circled. We all make mistakes and need Jesus. That is why Jesus came for everyone.

What you say: I am giving a sheet of paper to everyone. Circle the things that are true for you, but don't show anyone and don't put your name on it. I am collecting them afterwards and mixing them all up. You won't know whose is whose. After that I am handing them back to you. You won't have your own. Then we will answer each question by standing up if you have an answer circled on your paper. Remember, this is not YOUR answer. You are just answering for someone else.

1. Have you ever felt so sad you want to run away?
2. Do you have anything in your life that you regret?
3. Do you have anything in your life that you are embarrassed about?
4. Have you ever planned out how to hurt someone and then did it?
5. Have you ever hit or slapped someone else?
6. Have you ever been hit, pushed, pinched or slapped?
7. Have you ever stolen something?
8. Have you ever thought "I hate you" about someone?
9. Do you have any secrets that you've never shared with anyone?
10. Have you ever said or thought ugly words?
11. Have you ever been jealous of something someone else got?
12. Have you ever lied to someone?

This activity shows that we ALL are sinners and have messed up. There isn't any paper with nothing circled. We all make mistakes and need Jesus. That is why Jesus came for everyone.

Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We can be so thankful for God's forgiveness in our lives.



WEEK 3 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 4: HIDE AND GO SEEK

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Area to play hide and seek

What you do: Play Hide and Seek for a few minutes. Then say you are “It” and have the children hide but don’t find them. Get distracted or hide yourself. See how long it takes for them to come out of hiding. No one likes to stay in a hiding spot forever. It’s fun to hide for a little, but eventually the hiding spot becomes a prison if you can’t get out. Remind the children that ‘Fessing Up instead of hiding our mess is always best!

What you say: Sometimes when we Mess-up, we would rather hide it instead of ‘Fessing Up. We are going to play hide and seek. That’s a fun game, but you wouldn’t want to stay hidden forever. That’s no fun. Hiding our sin is like staying crouched in a hiding space forever. Running away and hiding and thinking you can be happy without God doesn’t work.

Peter ran back to fishing when he let Jesus down. Can you think of some other people in the Bible who hid? (Adam and Eve, Jonah). Even though it’s hard to OWN IT, SHOW IT, ASK IT, it’s sure better than being stuck in the dark.

ACTIVITY 5: PRAYER TIME

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Create time and space to be quiet. play soft music. Dim the lights if possible.

What you do: Do some Private Confession. Create a mood in your space using lighting, music and soft blankets or pillows. Do a minute or two of praying. Then take those confessions to Jesus when you come together as a group.

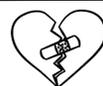
What you say: Confessing is a very important part of forgiving. When we confess to others we are admitting what was our fault. When we confess to God, we are showing Him how much we need Him to save us.

ACTIVITY 6: MEMORY WORK COLORING PAGE

Ages: K-3rd Grade

What you need: Copies of Addendum #4, crayons or markers

What you do: Hand out the memory coloring page and crayons. Have the kids go around the room showing the picture they colored and practicing saying the memory verse.



WEEK 3 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION/PRAYER

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 6: MEMORY WORK COLORING PAGE (CONT.)

What you do (Cont.): Like each picture, we will each have something different to confess. But we will all confess in one way or another.

(4th-5th Grade) Memorize the 5 ways God is described in our memory verse. Share how you see God being the following in your life:

1. Forgiving:
2. Gracious:
3. Compassionate:
4. Slow to Anger:
5. Abounding in Love:

"...But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love..."

Nehemiah 9:17

What you say: When God's Word is memorized, it's like it is carved forever in our minds or on our hearts. No matter what, no one can take those memories away. Let's try to carve these special words from the Bible on our hearts today.

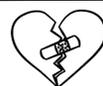
PRAYER

Dear God,

We are coming to you today realizing that there are some Mess Ups that we have not 'Fessed Up to. It is not always easy to admit when we are wrong. But God, we could spend all day and night and still not be able to remember every single Mess Up we have done. But even the ones we remember seem to crush us down. But Jesus, you don't remember them. You promise that you will take all our sin. You will always remember us as your children. Give us boldness to admit when we have Messed Up.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen



WEEK 3 | THE 'FESS-UP KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

FORGIVING
KIDS
CHALLENGE**Theme**

The second of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The 'Fess-Up (Confession)

Memory Verse

"... But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love . . ." Nehemiah 9:17

Bible Verses

John 13:3-17

Big Ideas

- ➡ We can forgive others even if they don't deserve it.
- ➡ Our forgiveness removes the stain of sin.
- ➡ When we are honest about our hurts or sin, we will find we are not alone.
- ➡ It's tempting to hide our sin, but forgiveness allows us to be honest about who we are.

Dear Parents:

In the journey of Forgiveness, confessing, or 'Fessing Up to our sin or our hurt is really important. We don't always want to admit something hurt us. We also don't always want to admit our own Mess Ups. But we learned that God gives us a brand new chance every day. He is the king of second, third, even a million chances. We also know that when we "Fess Up to our sin, no matter how bad it might feel, that healing is coming to our hurts. Peter made a confession that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus uses that confession as the Rock to build the church on. Amazing! Peter wrote 2 books of the Bible that you can read today, and he became an incredible missionary. God can use anyone for His glory!

Challenge:

As a family, spend some time confessing your feelings to each other with no punishment. Do it around a firepit, or maybe at bedtime when it's dark. Sometimes it's easier to 'Fess Up to something in the dark. Give your child an opportunity to share something with you without worrying about a consequence. Some possible questions might be:

- 1 Did I ever do something that really hurt you but you didn't tell me?
- 2 Was there ever a time someone hurt your feelings but you didn't want to admit it?
- 3 What was a time you did something and never told anyone because you didn't want to get in trouble?



WEEK 4 | THE CLEAN-UP (ABSOLUTION)

Theme

The third of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Clean-Up (Absolution)

Memory Verse

“Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.” Psalm 103:2-4

Bible Verses

Matthew 16:13-19 *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Big Ideas

- ➡ Forgiveness erases sin.
- ➡ Forgiveness is unlimited!
- ➡ When we have forgiveness, our old life will be removed.
- ➡ We cannot clean up our own messes, only Jesus can do that.



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 4 | WARM-UP/OBSERVATION

WARM-UP

ERASE IT! (K-5TH GRADE)

What you need: Paper, pencil eraser, one eraser for each child to take home

What you do: Talk about how forgiveness erases sins...look at several sizes and types of erasers, and review how they can take away marks on paper or white board.

What you say: We are going to make a backwards picture. I want you to cover your picture with pencil markings. Keep drawing until the whole page is dark. Then use your marker to erase space to make a picture. Today we are learning about how Jesus erased our Mess-ups. Like an eraser can take away darkness, Jesus can take away our mistakes and create a clean white space again.

OBSERVATION: SKIT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Red has to Clean-up the mess created by losing Karley's trust. The teacher reminds Red of their friendship, and what they both said to each other. Remembering what Jesus calls us, and what we can call each other helps us Clean-up the mess.

Peter remembers when He got the nickname "The Rock." Jesus tells him He will build His church on Peter's statement. Peter shares when he got the nickname and when he lived up to the nickname.

Peter: Welcome boys and girls! I am so glad to see each and every one of you. You all look happy and ready to learn more about forgiving. Let's review the 5 phases of forgiving. Every time you say "UP" I want you to point up to the sky. Ready?

Mess-up!

'Fess-up!

Clean-up!

Rise-up!

Step-up!

Awesome job! Hey, has anyone seen Red?

Red: (hiding) Not here.

Peter: Red, why are you hiding?

Red: Ummm, I heard that today was Clean-up day and I HAAAATE to clean.



WEEK 4 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION (CONT.)

Peter: Oh I think you are not the only one who feels that way. Boys and girls, what is your WORST chore you do at home?

- (Leave some time for discussion of chores at home.)

Peter: I think it's safe to say cleaning is not an easy thing. But what we are going to be learning is that Clean-up is a really important phase of forgiveness.

Red: I knew it! UUUUGGGHHH. Well, where's the vacuum? Mop? Duster? Let's get this over with.

Peter: We aren't talking about that kind of cleaning, Red. We are talking about what Jesus does to the Mess-ups in our lives.

Red: So...are we cleaning?

Peter: Nope. Well, maybe a little bit later after our activities, but the Clean-up we are talking about is not US doing the work. We come to church to learn more about JESUS and what HE did. And Jesus is a pretty remarkable cleaner!

I was at the end of my rope when Jesus died. It felt like my life was over. Jesus had told me that all I had to do was make one confession, that He is the Christ. That is all I did, and Jesus said He will build an entire church on that phrase. I didn't believe Him. It had to be more than that. I believed my Mess-up was too big.

Red: Yeah, I feel like that right now. Karley is pretty mad at me.

Peter: You told her that you swiped her phone, huh?

Red: Yeah. Now she doesn't trust me. I confessed, and it made everything worse!

Peter: Did she say that? I can understand why Karley is mad. But I bet she still wants to be friends with you.

Red: She was really quiet after I told her. And then I had to go to baseball practice so I just left.

Peter: Do you think she needed a little time to think about it?

Red: I guess. I just want things to feel all better and back to normal RIGHT AWAY. Like the way it used to be.

Peter: I wanted that with Jesus too. When He died, I thought He was gone forever. Instead Jesus had a plan all along. He HAD to die so that we could be with Him. I didn't get it until He rose from the grave. Then it all made sense. In fact, everyone said I had changed. I was suddenly so brave. I could talk to anyone about Jesus!

Red: I don't see how this could make our friendship better. I think I made it worse.



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 4 | OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

OBSERVATION (CONT.)

Peter: It sure wasn't your finest moment. But we all make mistakes. And sometimes forgiveness can help you grow closer to someone than ever before.

Red: So are you closer to Jesus?

Peter: You bet. In fact, one of my favorite Bible verses is **Isaiah 1:18**. "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Red: Wow. So you are saying there is NO STAIN that Jesus can't get out?

Peter: Nothing can separate us from Jesus. Give it time with Karley. Remember, forgiveness is a journey. It does not always happen quickly.

Red: OK I'll try. I feel better Peter. Thanks!

Peter: You bet! Boys and girls, let's thank God right for removing the stains in our lives from our Mess-ups.

Dear Jesus, thank you for cleaning up our messes. It cost you your life, but when you rose from the dead, that was our chance to be your best friend. We confess that you are our Lord and Savior. Amen.

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 1: THE BADDIES

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Pictures on a device or print-offs of famous villains in history or in movies

What you do: Show the pictures to the kids. Talk about each one and what they did. Discuss what you would do if you saw them. What would Jesus say to them?

What you say: Look at these pictures of infamous "villains". Sometimes we think we are not as bad as others. We think, "I would never do something like that. I am a better person than they are."

But that isn't true for Jesus. In fact, Jesus died for everyone. If one of these bad guys came to Jesus and said he was sorry, Jesus would forgive him. He even forgave a thief on a cross that was dying next to Him. He had some very bad Mess-Ups in his life.



WEEK 4 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 2: HOW MANY TIMES?

Ages: K-2nd Grade

What you need: Small candies, stickers, dots, or other decorations, glue or tape, construction paper, markers or crayons, verse caption or extra decoration (*optional*)

What you do: Decorate your paper with the number “70”. Practice counting to seventy: use small candies, stickers, tick marks, dots, or other decorations to count up to seventy on the construction paper. Remind students that we are to forgive people not just 70 or 490 times, but again and again. That’s what God does for us!

What you say: When Jesus told Peter to forgive “70 x 7 times”, He really meant an infinite number. How big is 70 times 7? Have children count out 70 of something (cereal pieces, candy, stickers, etc.) to consider the magnitude of that number.

Can you name something a brother/sister/friend does that constantly bothers you? How many times are we supposed to forgive someone? (Infinity) Is it hard to forgive someone over and over again? (Yes) Who helps you forgive? (Jesus)

ACTIVITY 3: LET JESUS' LIGHT SHINE

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: A plate, a glass, water, food coloring, candle

What you do: Show the students how God’s forgiveness removes sin by performing the following experiment. Directions:

- Mix a few drops of food coloring into the water and pour some of the colored water onto the plate.
- Place the candle in the center of the plate and light it.
- Finally, as you explain how Jesus took our sins upon Himself as He died on the cross, place the glass over the candle, and watch as the water rises into the glass, leaving the plate clean.

What you say: Mess-ups left a whole puddle of sin in the world. Just like this colored water. We couldn’t mop up our mess no matter how hard we tried. Jesus is the light of the world. He was able to soak up the sin, like the candle did to the water. When He soaked up the sin, that left pockets of God’s kingdom to come down. We can already be in relationship with Him, free from our sin.



WEEK 4 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 4: NO MORE GRUDGES

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Ground black pepper, a plate, water, dish soap

What you do: Have a volunteer pour some water onto the plate. Allow a volunteer to sprinkle pepper all over the water. Note: the less pepper you use, the more easily it will spread to the sides. Have another volunteer dip their finger into some dish soap, and then into the pepper water. The pepper will “magically” spread out, away from the soap. Keep repeating the experiment until everyone has gotten to participate.

What you say: When God forgives us, He casts our sins far, far away. He forgives us completely, meaning He doesn’t hold any of our sins against us once we repent. He throws them out so far away so that they can’t affect us any longer. God’s love and forgiveness is also complete– He doesn’t hold a grudge, or bring up our past sins later on, saying, “Remember when you did that bad thing?” Sin and God cannot be in the same place, just like your soapy finger. The pepper just wanted to get away from it didn’t it??? God cleans us up so we don’t have to remember those pesky sins anymore, because He doesn’t!

ACTIVITY 5: CHOCOLATE SYRUP EXPERIMENT

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: A bottle of chocolate syrup, a place to Clean-Up (wet wipes or a sink)

Optional Snack Idea: Fresh or frozen fruit to put chocolate syrup on, bowls, spoons, chocolate sauce to drizzle over the snack

What you do: Fill each child’s hands with chocolate sauce. Instructing them to sit and have newspaper or a plastic tablecloth is best. Tell them they have to hold that chocolate sauce for 5 minutes. Encourage them NOT to eat or taste it, and also to try to keep it all in their hands. Tell them they will have a chance to have a snack afterwards. Be mindful of clothing. While they are trying to hold it, discuss how sin makes our hands messy. After cleaning, allow them to prepare a snack.

What you say: Sin is like this chocolate syrup. I am going to fill each of your hands with chocolate syrup and I want you to try and hold it. It drips. It’s sticky. It spills out of your hand and sneaks through the cracks. Sin always drips around us and causes a mess to others.



WEEK 4 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 5: CHOCOLATE SYRUP EXPERIMENT (CONT.)

What you say (Cont.): Our sin doesn't just make us messy, it makes everything around us messy. Imagine if you had to go through the day without cleaning off your hands. You would get chocolate on everything you touch.

Jesus calls Himself the Living Water. With Jesus, we can Clean-up our messes and get our hands back to the way God made them, free of sticky goo!

All this chocolate smell has made me hungry! Let's enjoy a little snack of fruit with chocolate sauce drizzled on it.

ACTIVITY 6: FORGIVENESS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Ages: 3rd-5th Grade

What you need: See Addendum #5 to make prints of crossword puzzle

What you do: Hand out the crossword puzzle sheet. Work together as pairs or individuals on the crossword puzzle.

What you say: Jesus loved us so much that He went through this punishment so we wouldn't have to be punished for our sins. When Jesus went through the pain of being crucified on the cross, He was taking the punishment we deserve for our sins. We all deserve to be punished for our sins, but Jesus took the punishment for us.

We have learned a lot from Peter's story. He messed up, but Jesus still chose him. He gave him a purpose and named him before he did anything at all. Peter made a confession that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus uses that confession as the Rock to build the church on. Amazing! Peter wrote 2 books of the Bible that you can read today, and he became an incredible missionary. God can use anyone for His glory!



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 4 | PRAYER

PRAYER

Dear God,

There are some bad villains in the world. Sometimes it is easy to forget that we are one of them!

We can mess up too, and we need your clean up. Lord, we are so sorry for _____

(pause for kids to fill in their own sin in their heads.) Jesus, you cleaned us up when we weren't

just a mess. The Bible says we were completely dead in our sin. You gave us new life and a chance

to live free and follow You. We are so grateful for Your love. Help us to remember to give away

that freedom and forgiveness to others. After all, we could never run out of your everlasting

forgiveness!

In Jesus's name,

Amen



FORGIVING KIDS

WEEK 4 | THE CLEAN-UP KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

Theme

The third of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Clean-Up (Absolution)

Memory Verse

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." **Psalm 103:2-4**

Bible Verses

Matthew 16:13-19

Big Ideas

- ➡ Forgiveness erases sin.
- ➡ Forgiveness is unlimited!
- ➡ When we have forgiveness, our old life will be removed.
- ➡ We cannot clean up our own messes, only Jesus can do that.

Dear Parents:

Today we learned that every big Mess needs a Clean Up. Peter messed up big time by denying Jesus three times, but Jesus still chose him. We don't need to worry about Cleaning Up our mess of sin, Jesus took care of that sin when He died on the cross. Because we are forgiven children of God, it is easier for us to work on cleaning up messes we make or to help others clean up their own messes. With Jesus's help, even the biggest messes can be restored brand new!

Challenge:

Help someone clean up a mess today. Maybe you need to sort out that closet you've been putting off. Maybe you can help someone else with a project like your grandma or someone who can't get around easily. Cleaning up a mess on the outside is hard, but cleaning up a mess on the inside can be much more tricky. As you clean, think about how Jesus has cleaned your inside as well as your outside!

Write this on your fridge or put it somewhere where you will see it to remind the family of the three steps in an apology:

- 1 OWN IT.** Admit to your mistake.
- 2 SHOW IT.** Demonstrate that you are sorry with your words, actions, and body language.
- 3 ASK IT.** Ask how you can make it right.



WEEK 5 | THE RISE-UP (RESTORATION)

Theme

The fourth of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Rise-Up (Restoration)

Memory Verse

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. **Psalm 145:8**

Bible Verses

John 21:1-14 *Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Big Ideas

-  Forgiveness doesn't just remove sin, it restores us back to a right relationship with Jesus.
-  Unforgiveness leaves us feeling empty and bitter.
-  God's forgiveness changes us from the inside out.
-  Even though Mess-Ups hurt, forgiveness makes friendships even better.



WEEK 5 | WARM-UP/OBSERVATION

WARM-UP

EXPIRING TWINKIES? (K-5TH GRADE)

What you need: Twinkies for every child in the class

What you do: Show a Twinkie and share the story of the Twinkie and its expiration date. Tell them that like the professor in the story, you are also going to put their Twinkies up on a shelf for the end of class. Promise them they will be able to take it home with or enjoy it as a snack at the end of the lesson.

What you say: I want to talk about expiration dates on food today. Have any of you ever seen that on food? Has anyone ever eaten something that was expired? How did it taste? I have a snack today that can last a really long time. Some people even say that Twinkies can last forever, that's like NO EXPIRATION DATE. I have an interesting story about an experiment that involved Twinkies that I want to read to you:

In 1974 a science teacher in Maine wanted to find out if Twinkies could last forever. Roger Bennatti at the George Stevens Academy spent his teaching career attempting to engage his students through innovative means. Bennatti kept the Twinkie in his lab for the duration of his 31-year career. It seems that the Twinkie outlasted the man. At Bennatti's retirement, the Twinkie was passed along to another educator at George Stevens Academy. Despite being decorated with a few specs of mold, the Twinkie was still bright yellow. The man claimed, "It's rather brittle, but if you dusted it off, it's still probably edible. It never spoiled." https://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/news/2004-08-13-twinkie_x.htm

As it turns out, Twinkies are not everlasting, they have an expiration date like everything else. They do last a lot longer than other food, they have a 45-day shelf life, but they cannot last forever. We are not like Twinkies. We don't have an expiration date where we are too spoiled and beyond help. The disciple Peter thought he had an expiration date. He had given up on following Jesus after he died, and went back to his normal life. We are going to hear how Jesus never gave up on Peter, and He will never give up on you either. You do NOT expire!

OBSERVATION: SKIT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Red is forgiven by his friend Karley and can rise back up. Absolution covers us for heaven, for eternal life, freedom from the consequences of our sin. But our God wants to go deeper than that. Restoration is freeing us to something, a relationship with God right here, right now, in this world. Jesus meets Peter to fish (again). Peter is told to throw out his nets. He does it again and gets tons of fish. Suddenly at that point is when he recognizes Jesus.



WEEK 5 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Welcome boys and girls! We have been learning about Forgiveness. Let's review the 5 phases of Forgiving. Every time you say "UP" I want you to point up. Ready?

Mess-UP!

Fess-UP!

Clean-UP!

Rise-UP!

Step-UP!

Wow! I think you are really getting it! Great job guys!

Red: I can do it too! I am faster than they are. Mess-up! 'Fess-up! Clean-up! Rise-up! Step-up!

Peter: Wow! Yeah that was fast alright! Today we are learning about Rising Up. When we practice forgiveness, it is like walking over a mountain. You will Rise-up, up, up on your way as you go through each phase.

Red: If I want to go up, I'll just ride the elevator! Or grab my jetpack! (PBTTTHHHHH!)

- (Red pretends to fly around the room.)

Peter: Sorry Red, the mountain of Forgiveness doesn't have an elevator. You have to do the work.

Red: Shucks.

Peter: Last week, I shared that after Jesus died, I gave up. I went back to fishing. One morning, I was out fishing. Jesus told me to cast my nets in after a whole night of coming up empty-handed. It felt very familiar, because the exact same thing happened to me when I met Jesus. Sure enough, we caught over a hundred fish. When we came to shore I smelled something familiar. It was a smoky campfire smell.

Red: I love smelling bacon sizzling in the morning. When I smell that, I know my Mama's cooking!

Peter: Yeah, like bacon in the morning. Jesus invited us to join Him, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

Red: But, why would Jesus tell them to bring fish? Wasn't He already cooking food?

Peter: He did. Jesus already had all the fish and bread He needed ready to go. But still, Jesus told me, "Bring some of the fish you've caught." Jesus wants to use what we can bring. He doesn't NEED it, but He will still include our work. That was the moment I realized that what I do really MATTERS to Jesus.

Red: So did you bring the fish?



WEEK 5 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: You bet I did! I climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. I was going to show Jesus my work. My net was full of large fish! 153! Even with so many the net was not torn, it stayed together. That was a miracle!

Red: Did you cook them all up?

Peter: We didn't need them all. I ended up giving most of them away. But that breakfast meant something. Jesus was trying to tell me something.

Red: That breakfast is the most important meal of the day? My mom is ALWAYS saying that.

Peter: It was more than that. In my culture, to eat with someone who you have a problem with is a way to express forgiveness. Jesus was saying, "I forgive you," through breakfast!

Red: Karley shared her Goldfish with me yesterday.

Peter: That's a pretty good sign, Red, I think she has forgiven you. Must feel pretty good!

Red: It feels GRRRRRREAT to be forgiven! Like I can fly around this room!

Peter: Haha, Ok slow down there 'Tony the Tiger'! Without forgiving others, we would miss some pretty awesome views at the top of the mountain of forgiveness. Even though it can feel like we are sinking down with sin, confession, and absolution it's worth it when we can Rise-up again with a fresh look on the world after being forgiven!

Romans 8:15 says, *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.*

Red: I am so glad I am part of this wonderful group.

Peter: Me too. Boys and girls, let's thank God for forgiveness in our life.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for restoring relationships that get messed up. We are sorry for the times we sin, and we confess that we don't even always get forgiveness perfectly right. Thank you for showing us what it means to be forgiving people. Keep us in your loving arms always and forever. In Jesus's name, Amen!

Red: AMEN!



WEEK 5 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 1: RESTORATION PROJECT

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Frozen ice block with toys inside, forks, scrapers, shovels, toothbrushes

What you do: Hand out the frozen ice block and items. Make sure everyone has a job. Explain what restoration is and why this is important in the journey of forgiveness.

What you say: We are learning about how Jesus restored Peter. To RESTORE something is to make it back into what it originally was. This still happens today. Some people restore old cars or paintings. Art can get old and people are paid to make it look like it did when it was first made. We are going to pretend we are restoring some art. It has been buried in a FROZEN glacier and you have to dig away at the ice until you find the original object. Can you do that?

- (After handing out the ice blocks and letting the kids work to retrieve the items.)

Sometimes we get frozen in unforgiveness. Even after we have said I'm sorry and cleaned up the mess, it might still feel awkward with someone who has hurt us. We have to work to restore the relationship again. We need to be dug out by Jesus so we can be healthy and whole again. Jesus is in the business of restoring us back into a right relationship with Him.

ACTIVITY 2: RISE-UP!

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Nothing

What you do: Have kids get into pairs and sit back to back. First have them cross their arms in front of them. And have them stand up by just pressing on each other's backs. Then have them link arms and try to stand up. It takes teamwork and an equal amount of pressure on both sides for them to find success.

What you say: In Proverbs God tells us that we will be healthier if we guard our hearts from hate and grudges. God commands His people to love others as they love themselves. (**Galatians 5:14, James 2:8**). For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Galatians 5:14** The opposite of love is hate. To hate someone means we have an extremely strong feeling of dislike for him them. We usually try to stay away from things or people we hate. A grudge is when we remember the wrong someone did to us and we are unfriendly towards that person. When we hold grudges, it is like crossing our arms in front of ourselves and not wanting to cooperate. Once you work together, you can successfully rise back up!



WEEK 5 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 3: SNACK TIME!

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Bitter roots, lemon or lime juice, a sweet snack like graham crackers or fruit snacks

What you do: Have your children taste a bitter, non-poisonous root such as ginger. Alternatively, use some horseradish, lemon juice or lime juice. Have something sweet on hand (graham crackers or fruit snacks are good options) for your children to eat to remove the bitter taste. Read **Hebrews 12:14-15**.

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

What you say: Sometimes when we have a fight with a friend or family member, it leaves a bad feeling in our stomach. Like a bitter taste. When we don't have forgiveness happening in our lives, we can lose the sweet taste of friendship.

Do you prefer a bitter or a sweet taste?, How did you make the bad taste in your mouth go away?, How can we make sure no bitter roots grow up in our family and among our friends?

ACTIVITY 4: FINGER PLAY

Ages: K-2nd Grade

What you need: Nothing

What you do: Do the finger play as a group. Invite the children to do the actions with you.

What you say: Let's do this fingerplay to practice what it means to forgive and Rise-up after an argument.

Two little friends, one left and one right (hold up both hands with fists closed),
 Started to quarrel and started to fight (wave fists at each other).
 Now these little friends were not happy that day,
 For they had been taught the right way to play.
 Then one little friend hid his head down in shame (lower right fist from wrist and turn away);
 The other did too, for he felt just the same (lower left fist and turn away also).
 The first little friend said, "I know what I'll do (clap hands).
 To show you I'm sorry, I'll ask forgiveness of you."
 "I too am sorry," the next one did say,
 "Let's play and be happy the rest of the day" (fold arms and sit down).



WEEK 5 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 5: A CHANGE OF HEART

Ages: 3rd-5th Grade

What you need: 2 eggs, vinegar, a glass

What you do: A day or two before you are going to teach your Sunday School lesson, you'll need to place one of the eggs into the glass, and fill it with vinegar. Let the egg sit in the vinegar. After 24 hours, it should be soft and yellowish. Rinse it off and bring it to class with the other egg. Show the students the hard egg and let them touch it. (You can boil it to avoid it breaking and making a mess in your class.) Ask them if there is any way to make this hard egg shell soft. Then, rinse off the softened egg and let the kids touch it and even bounce it on the table. Explain that this egg spent 24 hours in vinegar, which "magically" made it soft!

What you say: When God's love surrounds us, like the vinegar covering the egg, we can't help but come out completely changed. His love softens even the hardest of hearts!

ACTIVITY 6: FORGIVING FRIEND

Ages: K-2nd Grade

What you need: Cardstock, crayons/markers, craft eyes, glue *Optional:* Addendum #6

What you do: *Prepare beforehand* Either use Addendum #6 or you can make your own: Cut out a figure of a person out of cardstock but don't give them any hands or arms. Use the additional arms from Addendum #6 to decorate and color. (they will not be proportionate to the body, that's ok!)

Instructions:

Step 1. Give kids a piece of cardstock and instruct them to trace both of their hands and then cut out their hand shapes. Give them the pre-cut strip of cardstock and instruct them to color this anyway they like and then fold the strip lengthways into thirds. This will become the "arms" of their "Forgiving friend."

Step 2. Give children the paper cutout. This will be the body and head of their "Forgiving Friend". Write the memory verse of the week on the rectangle body part: Psalm 145:8 "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."

Step 3. Give students craft eyes and crayons and instruct them to decorate the face of their "Forgiving Friend." Bend the arms into a shape for a forgiving hug.



WEEK 5 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION/PRAYER

FORGIVING
CHALLENGE
KIDS

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 6: FORGIVING FRIEND (CONT.)

What you say: Today we are going to make a Forgiving Friend. A big part of our forgiving friend is his arms that open wide. Giving and receiving hugs is a way that we can show others that we forgive them.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Talking about rising up makes us remember how you rose up from the grave on that very first Easter morning. After that everything changed. You not only took our sin and died on the cross, but then you rose up on the 3rd day! We are so thankful that when we fall down, we can feel confident that we will rise up again through forgiveness. You will never let us fall, our final ending is Heaven with you. What an amazing promise of hope we have!

We love you Jesus,

Amen



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 5 | THE RISE-UP KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

Theme

The fourth of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Rise-Up (Restoration)

Memory Verse

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. Psalm 145:8

Bible Verses

John 21:1-14 NIV

Big Ideas

- ➡ Forgiveness doesn't just remove sin, it restores us back to a right relationship with Jesus.
- ➡ Unforgiveness leaves us feeling empty and bitter.
- ➡ God's forgiveness changes us from the inside out.
- ➡ Even though Mess-Ups hurt, forgiveness makes friendships even better.

Dear Parents:

Today your child learned that even after a clean up and repairation has been made, there is still a process to forgiveness. This 4th phase of forgiveness is called Restoration, or the Rise Up. When kids learn about forgiveness from TV shows, often the scene stops after the Clean Up phase: there's a mess up, then after a 'fess up the conflict get's cleaned up. It's in the Rise Up that hard times and backsliding can happen, and tv shows and books don't always show that. Even after we hear "I forgive you", or "I'm sorry", there is often anger, or even a lack of trust. Even through frustration or broken trust, a restored relationship is the goal of forgiveness. How do we know? That was the goal of Jesus when He came to Earth. He wasn't just interested in saving us, but He wants a restored relationship with us. This continues after your baptism, and throughout your life.

Challenge:

Go climbing today. It could just be up a jungle gym at the park, or it could be a climbing wall at your local climbing center. No matter if you are climbing on boulders, with a fancy harness, a snow pile or a pile of cushions in your living room, think about how climbing takes time.

- 1 What is something you may have thought you have forgiven but it is still making you mad when you think about it?
- 2 Talk to someone about those feelings. Why do you still feel angry or hurt?
- 3 It takes time to restore a relationship. Write down how long you may need to feel 100% better. Whether it's a few days or even a few years, make it a goal to completely let go of your frustrated and hurt feelings.



WEEK 6 | THE STEP-UP (SANCTIFICATION)

Theme

The last of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Step-Up (Sanctification)

Memory Verse

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. **Romans 8:15***

Bible Verses

John 21:15-18 *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?”*

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of Jonah, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of Jonah, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Big Ideas

-  Jesus forgives us so we can share that gift of forgiveness with others.
-  One thing everyone has in common is that they have been forgiven.
-  Forgiveness bridges the gap between us and God.
-  When we each bring our own talents and abilities, we can create something new!



WEEK 6 | WARM-UP/OBSERVATION

WARM-UP

WHERE DO YOU STAND? (K-5TH GRADE)

What you need: Nothing

What you do: Have all the children gather in the center of the room. Call out opposites and point in one direction for each. Children make their choice and run to the correct side of the line. (Remind them they HAVE to pick one, even if they don't care for either.)

Examples:

- Cats or dogs?
- Villains or heroes?
- Red or purple?
- Football or baseball?
- Live in the city or live in the country?
- Hot dogs or hamburgers?
- Cereal or toast?
- Math or Reading?
- Gaming or camping outside?

Try to think up some opposites that will get all the children on one side of the line!

If you are playing indoors and you want the kids to get a little more exercise, you can also ask children to sit down once they have decided.

Option to include older kids: Let some older children run the game. Allow them to call out the options and then keep track of how many were on each side. They can report their findings to the group.

What you say: A wonderful thing about forgiveness is that it connects us with other people. Everyone has had to forgive someone else or be forgiven. We were never given forgiveness just to be something we open and keep to ourselves. This is a sweet gift that can be shared, yet always still kept for yourself! Today we are going to learn about some other things we may have in common with others. Remember: no matter our similarities or differences, Jesus is the common Savior who connects us with everyone we meet, because He loves each one of them.

OBSERVATION: SKIT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Red now has to forgive others their sins. He can extend forgiveness to someone else because he has been forgiven. This is when Peter is invited to feed my sheep and feed my lambs.



WEEK 6 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: Hey boys and girls! I am so excited to see each and every one of you here today. Red, I cannot believe this is your last day here.

Red: No! Say it ain't so!

Peter: It's pretty hard to say goodbye, but we still have our last phase of forgiveness!

Red: Another step!?! But I have done so many. I thought we were all done with forgiveness. I don't want to talk about the phone mess-up anymore.

Peter: Red, you don't have to! We aren't going to look back anymore at the Mess-up. That was Phase One. Does anyone remember what happened?

- (Allow time for answers about what Red did.)

Peter: We all make mistakes from time to time. I messed up on my way here! I got mad when someone cut me off on the road. But instead of honking and getting mad, I tried going through my 5 phases of forgiveness. And it helped!

Red: So what's this last phase? Promise to never have a Mess Up again?

Peter: Do you think you could make that promise Red? Because I sure couldn't.

Red: If I hid in my closet and wrapped myself with bubble wrap for the rest of my life then maybe.

Peter: That's not the life God wants for us. He wants to call us to serve Him. He loves you and has big plans for you, even after a Mess-Up.

Red: How do you know that?

Peter: Well, because He asked me if I love Him.

Red: Why?

Peter: I think He was reminding me of what I was all about. And giving me a second chance. In fact, He asked me 3 times if I love Him.

Red: What did you say?

Peter: I said "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." Then He told me, "Feed my lambs."

Red: He wanted you to be a shepherd instead of a fisherman?

Peter: He wanted me to be a fisher of men, not a fisherman. He told me to travel around the world and share the news of His great love.

Red: WOW!



WEEK 6 | OBSERVATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Peter: When Jesus asked me three times if I love Him, I was reminded of the big mess up I did.

Red: When you denied Him 3 times? That was bad.

Peter: Hey now...we all make mistakes. That was not a great moment for me. But Jesus gave me a chance to take it back and try again.

Red: Like Karley and her phone? I hope she has forgiven me.

Peter: Would you like to know for sure?

Red: Yes I would.

Peter: Well, Karley is here! Karley, come out and join us.

Red: What? Oh no! She is going to be mad!

Peter: Hey Karley. Thanks for meeting us. We heard about what happened with your phone. Were you mad?

Karley: To tell the truth, yes. But I am not anymore.

Peter: Red, what do you want to ask Karley?

Red: Karley, do you forgive me for taking the phone?

Karley: Red, yes I forgive you. I can forgive you because I know God has forgiven me.

Red: And that you got your phone back?

Karley: That helps. But I would forgive you even if you had broken it.

Red: Really?

Karley: If God forgives me I don't need to prove or work my way out with God because He already did. I can take that same forgiveness that God has given to me, and I can step up and give it away to others.

Red: That's pretty cool that forgiveness never runs out.

Peter: Nope! It's unlimited! In John 20:21-23 Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Red: That's a big job.

Peter: It is, but I know you can STEP up to the plate and accept the challenge. In fact, later you will set your own forgiveness goal with steps to complete it. I cannot wait to see what you come up with! Thanks for joining us Karley!



WEEK 6 | OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Karley: You bet. See ya later Red!

Peter: Boys and girls, will you pray with me?

Dear Jesus, Thank you for your forgiveness of us. Thank you for second chances, and we ask that we are reminded of you when we are having a difficult time forgiving others. Amen.

Red: I will sure miss you. You are the most fun group of kids ever.

Peter: We will miss you boys and girls! Thanks for having us!

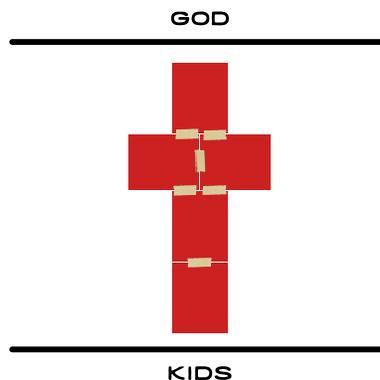
INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 1: POWER OF THE CROSS

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Masking tape, 5 large pieces of posterboard (at least 18 in. x 24 in.)

What you do: Use the masking tape to create two parallel lines eight to ten feet apart. There should be plenty of room for the children to line up behind one of the lines. The lines will represent the edges of a deep canyon. You will use the poster board to create a large cross, and place it between the two lines like the example below. Then you will have the children use the cross like a bridge to walk across to the other side of the canyon to be with God. Have the children all line up behind one of the lines before continuing.



What you say: Sometimes we do things that are wrong. Can anyone give me an example of something that is wrong? (Allow for answers and provide help if needed.)



WEEK 6 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 1: POWER OF THE CROSS (CONT.)

What you say (Cont.): When we do something that is wrong, no matter how small, it is called sin. Sin separates us from God. Let's pretend that these two lines are the edges of a deep canyon. We are on one side and God is waiting for us on the other. However, because we sometimes do things that are wrong, we cannot get across. Does anyone think he or she can jump all the way to the other side of the canyon?

Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. When we say we are sorry, Jesus forgives our sins and He makes a way for us to get across to where God is in Heaven. (Take the poster board pieces and create a cross between the two lines. Quickly tape the pieces together for added stability.)

The cross is like a bridge. Because of Jesus, we have a way to get back to God. (Let the children walk across to the other side while holding hands.)

ACTIVITY 2: MEMORY WORK

Ages: 3rd-5th Grade

What you need: Copies of Addendum #7, coloring or writing utensils

What you do: Pass out copies to everyone. Fill in the blanks with the 5 phases of forgiveness. Discuss which phase might be the most difficult.

What you say: Which phase do you think is the hardest for you? Why? How can forgiving help others?

ACTIVITY 3: FORGIVENESS LIMBO!

Ages: K-1st Grade

What you need: An assortment of fun, upbeat songs focused on theme of Forgiveness

Examples: Free as a Bee (Hillsong Kids), Jesus Loves Me, The Butterfly Song

What you do: Using your phone and speakers, set up a little dance party in your room. Try doing the Limbo with a yardstick to get kids to relax and loosen up!

What you say: It really feels wonderful to be forgiven. We can use our words to show how excited we are. We can also use our bodies! Let's have a mini-dance party to show how thankful we are to Jesus for the forgiveness we have. It is easier to forgive when we are reminded of how we are forgiven by Jesus.



WEEK 6 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 4: STEPPING UP!

Ages: 3rd-5th Grade

What you need: Copies of Addendum #8

What you do: Hand out Addendum #8 sheet. Encourage the students to write down or think about what goals they have for forgiveness. If they are really struggling, have them write down any goal they have and steps they can take to achieve it.

What you say: Our last phase in Forgiveness is Step-Up. Sometimes we need little steps taken to get to a big goal we have. Think of a big goal you have in Forgiveness. Write it down on your goal sheet. What do you need to do to get to that goal? Write those steps down, you can add more steps if you need to!

ACTIVITY 5: PRAYER/FORGIVENESS DISAPPEARING SIN!

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: Sharpies, flash paper [(1 per student) flash paper or flying prayer/wish paper can be purchased on Amazon]

Prep beforehand: *Practice burning the flash paper before the students arrive. It takes a little practice to get it right!*

What you do: Cut the sheets into fourths leaving four smaller rectangles. Give every student a piece of flying paper and a marker. Have them write down a hurt caused to them, preferably something that they haven't forgiven. Remind the children that the paper is small and thin, so they don't need to write every sin, just something simple. Ask them to take some time and pray over the paper, praying for God to forgive those sins. Take the student's paper and pray over it. Then light just the edge of the paper with a burning candle and throw it into the air. The paper will burn in a flash leaving behind no ashes or other residue.

What you say: How does the disappearing paper remind you of forgiveness? What is something that is easy for you to forgive? What kinds of things are harder to forgive? Have a volunteer read **Matthew 18:21-35**.

Discuss: What do you think is the point of the story? Does it make it easier for you to forgive others knowing that Jesus has forgiven you on so many things? Why or why not?



WEEK 6 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 6: FRIENDSHIP SNACK MIX!

Ages: K-5th Grade

What you need: A mixture of snack items (be mindful of allergies), M&Ms, mini marshmallows, pretzels, Chex, butterscotch chips, and popcorn.

What you do: This is a simple lesson on fostering shared responsibility in forgiveness. Mix the friendship snack mix. After serving everyone read **Genesis 32-33** (see below). Discuss the questions from "What to say:" as a group. (Modify questions and scripture for age-appropriateness.)

Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau

Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is the camp of God!" So he named that place Mahanaim.

Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. He instructed them: "This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: 'Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.'"

When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape."

Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"

He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. He put them in the care of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, "Go ahead of me, and keep some space between the herds."

He instructed the one in the lead: "When my brother Esau meets you and asks, 'Who do you belong to, and where are you going, and who owns all these animals in front of you?' then you are to say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and he is coming behind us.'"



WEEK 6 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 6: FRIENDSHIP SNACK MIX! (CONT.)

What you do (Cont.):

He also instructed the second, the third and all the others who followed the herds: "You are to say the same thing to Esau when you meet him. And be sure to say, 'Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.'" For he thought, "I will pacify him with these gifts I am sending on ahead; later, when I see him, perhaps he will receive me." So Jacob's gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp.

Jacob Wrestles With God

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Jacob Meets Esau

Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked.

Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant."

Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

Esau asked, "What's the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?"

"To find favor in your eyes, my lord," he said.

But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself."



WEEK 6 | INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 6: FRIENDSHIP SNACK MIX! (CONT.)

What you do (Cont.):

“No, please!” said Jacob. “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.” And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

Then Esau said, “Let us be on our way; I’ll accompany you.”

But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die. So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the flocks and herds before me and the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

Esau said, “Then let me leave some of my men with you.”

“But why do that?” Jacob asked. “Just let me find favor in the eyes of my lord.”

So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. Jacob, however, went to Sukkoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is called Sukkoth.

After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel.

What you say: In every friendship you are going to see people practicing forgiveness. Like Esau and Jacob, we are going to make a snack mix by working together. Each student gets to add a portion of pre-measured ingredients to the bowl, which we all get to enjoy at the end.

Discussion Questions during Snack Time (3rd-5th Grade):

1. When Jacob went back to meet Esau, how did Esau respond?
2. How did Jacob feel? What did he do?
3. When Jacob and Esau met, what happened?
4. What lessons can we learn from this reconciliation of Jacob and Esau? (Jacob learned to humble himself and seek forgiveness; Esau learned to forgive his brother).
5. What should you do when you have done something wrong to someone? What should you do when somebody asks forgiveness from you?



FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

WEEK 6 | PRAYER

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We are so thankful that we are not just saved by you, but that you have plans for us! With you by our side, we are not afraid to try to step up and do new things. As we step up, give us eyes to see others who need your forgiveness. Above all, guide and lead us through life's ups and downs.

We love you Jesus,

Amen



Theme

The Last of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Step-Up (Sanctification)

Memory Verse

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. **Romans 8:15***

Bible Verses

John 21:15-18

Big Ideas

- ➡ Jesus forgives us so we can share that gift of forgiveness with others.
- ➡ One thing everyone has in common is that they have been forgiven.
- ➡ Forgiveness bridges the gap between us and God.
- ➡ When we each bring our own talents and abilities, we can create something new!

Dear Parents:

Sanctification is a big word. Not only is it a big word, but it packs a punch in it's meaning: the act of making or declaring something as holy. It is the action or process of being freed from sin or purified. When we talk about the last phase in forgiveness, Stepping Up, what we are really wanting our students to see is that the process of being freed from sin is the work of Jesus. It's always been His saving power. But we are invited to be a part of that process of being made holy. They may not save themselves, but they can help free someone else. When a Mess Up happens, your child is owed a debt of pain. When they forgive, they are freeing that other person from their "pain debt". In order to do that, they have to absorb that pain. They are letting go of their right to get even or make things fair. Stepping up to that challenge is a big one, but we know your child has what it takes to accept this challenge. They have the power of the Holy Spirit on their side. If God is for them, who can be against them? (**Romans 8:31**)

Challenge:

Discuss the following questions as a family. Identify one person that can be released from their debt.

- Who needs to be released from a debt they owe you? What did they do to create that debt? What will it cost you to forgive? How painful will it be to forgive [rate from "pretty easy" (1) or "hardest thing ever" (10)]? Do you need to talk with this person? (Yes/No)

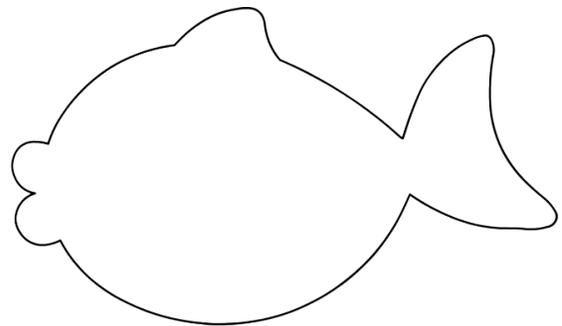
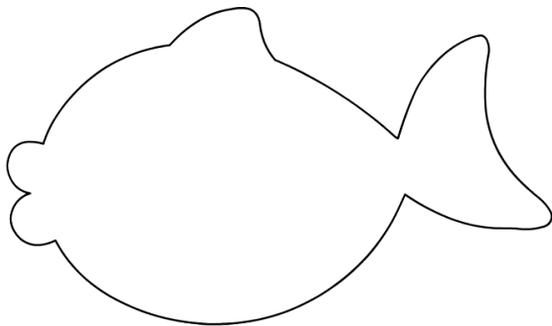
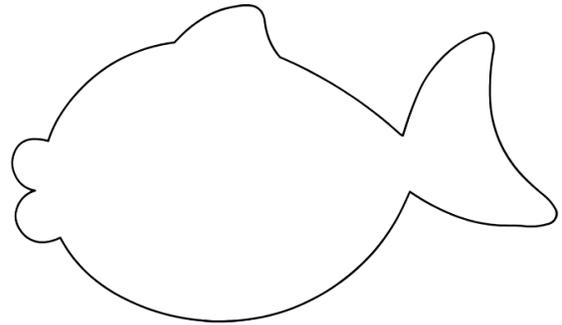
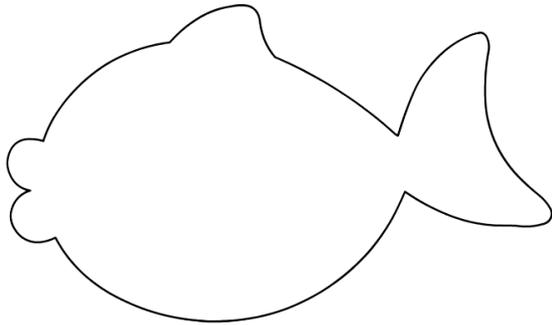
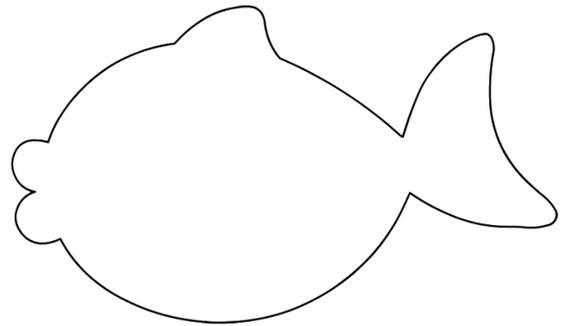
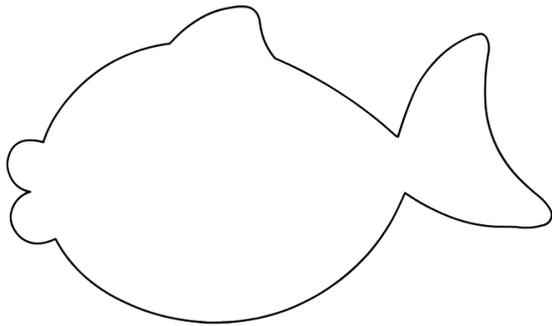
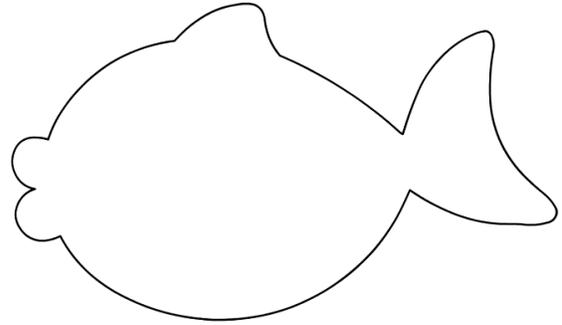
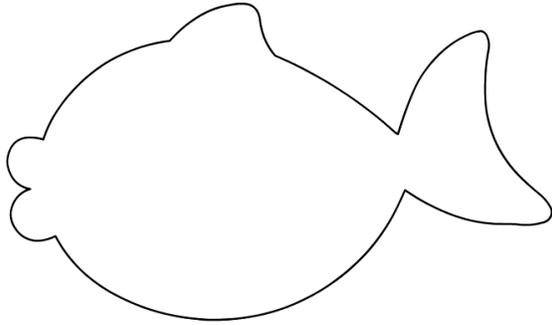
As a family, commit to forgiving this person in your life. No matter what. No strings attached. Simply because God's forgiveness for you is big enough to cover it.



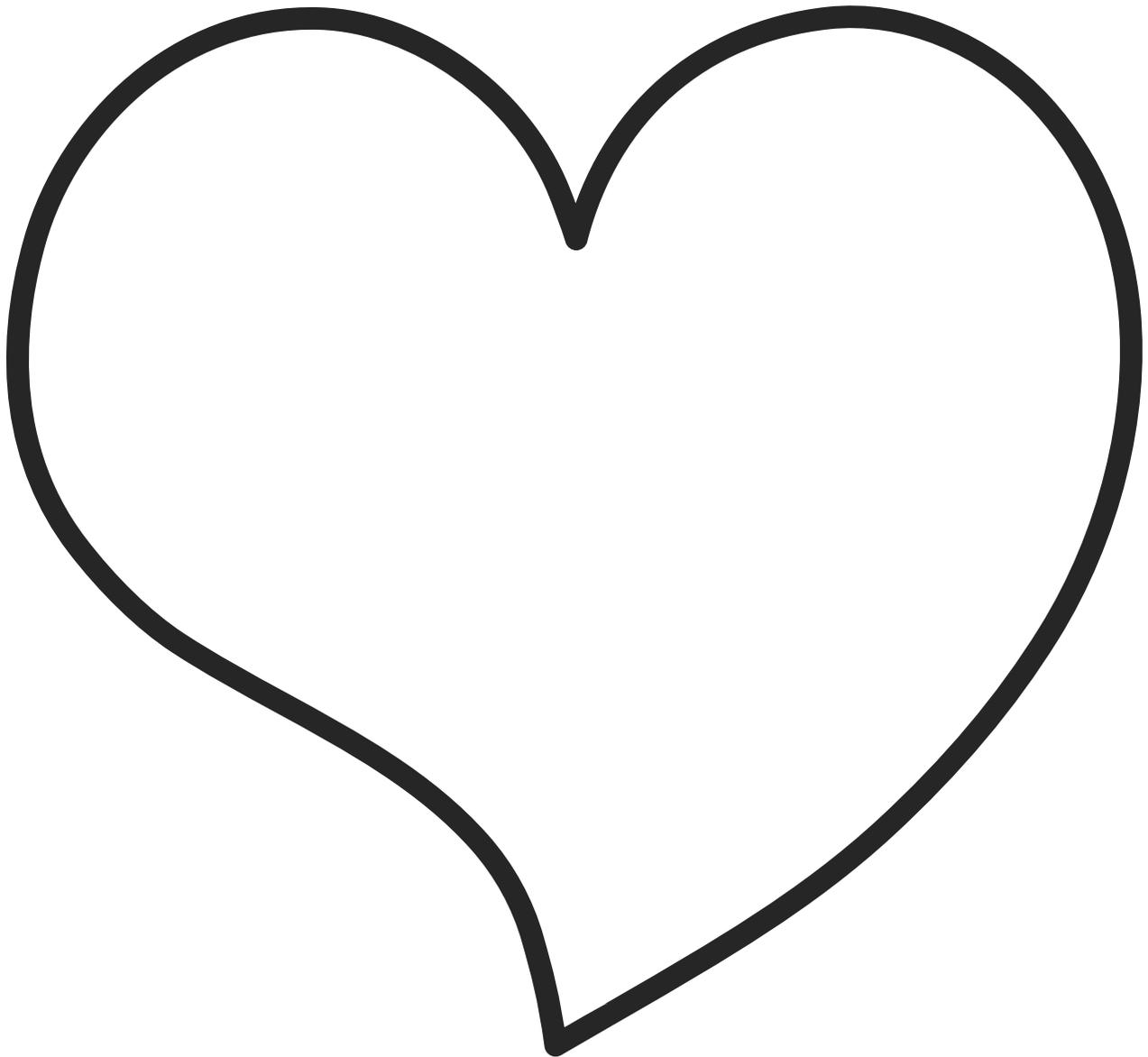
FORGIVING CHALLENGE KIDS

WEEK 1 | **ADDENDUM #1**

ACTIVITY 5: MEMORY WORK



ACTIVITY 1: HURTS ON THE INSIDE



WEEK 3 | ADDENDUM #3

FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 3: TRUTH OR...TRUTH?

1. Have you ever felt so sad you want to run away?
2. Do you have anything in your life that you regret?
3. Do you have anything in your life that you are embarrassed about?
4. Have you ever planned out how to hurt someone and then did it?
5. Have you ever hit or slapped someone else?
6. Have you ever been hit, pushed, pinched or slapped?"
7. Have you ever stolen something?
8. Have you ever thought "I hate you" about someone?
9. Do you have any secrets that you've never shared with anyone?
10. Have you ever said or thought ugly words?
11. Have you ever been jealous of something someone else got?
12. Have you ever lied to someone?



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WEEK 3 | ADDENDUM #3

FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 3: TRUTH OR...TRUTH?

1. Have you ever felt so sad you want to run away?
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FORGIVING KIDS CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 6: MEMORY WORK COLORING PAGE



“... BUT YOU ARE A

FORGIVING GOD,

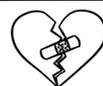
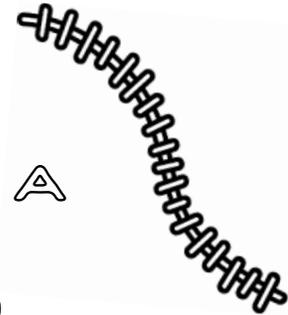
GRACIOUS AND

COMPASSIONATE,

SLOW TO ANGER AND

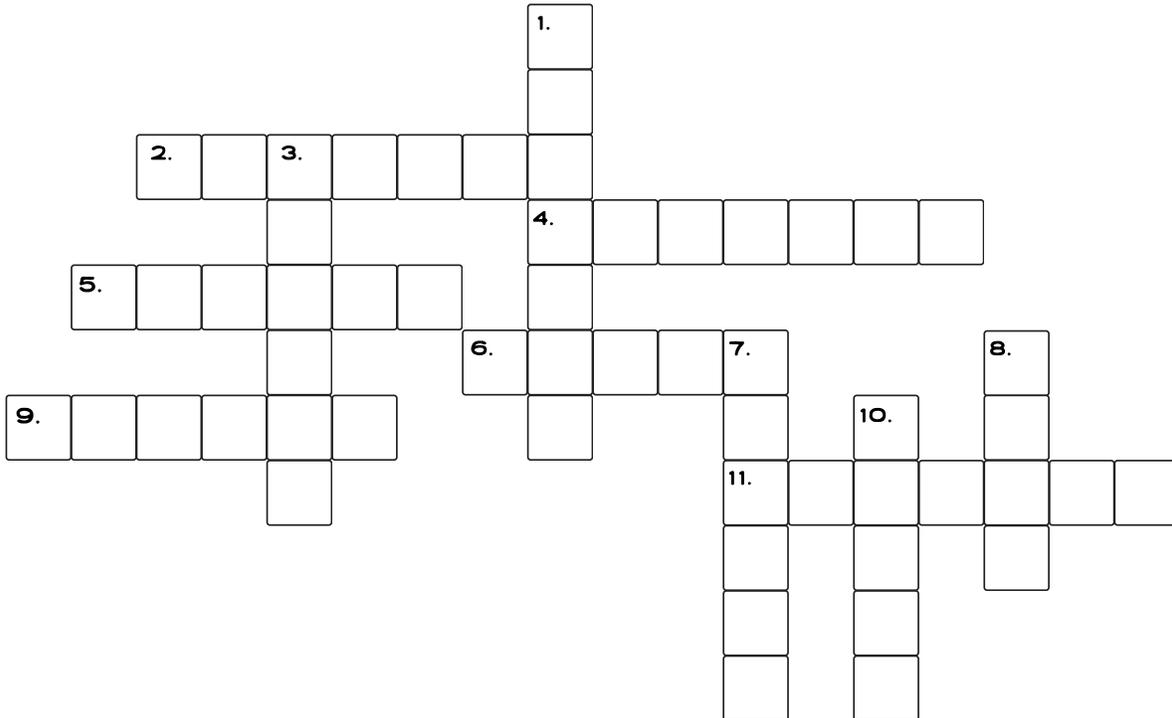
ABOUNDING IN LOVE ...”

NEHEMIAH 9:17



WEEK 4 | ADDENDUM #5

ACTIVITY 6: FORGIVENESS CROSSWORD



PETER AND JESUS

Down:

1. To make right a wrong
3. To restore a relationship after a Mess-Up
7. The last phase: to help someone else forgive
8. Opposite of slave
10. Jesus's disciple who denied him three times

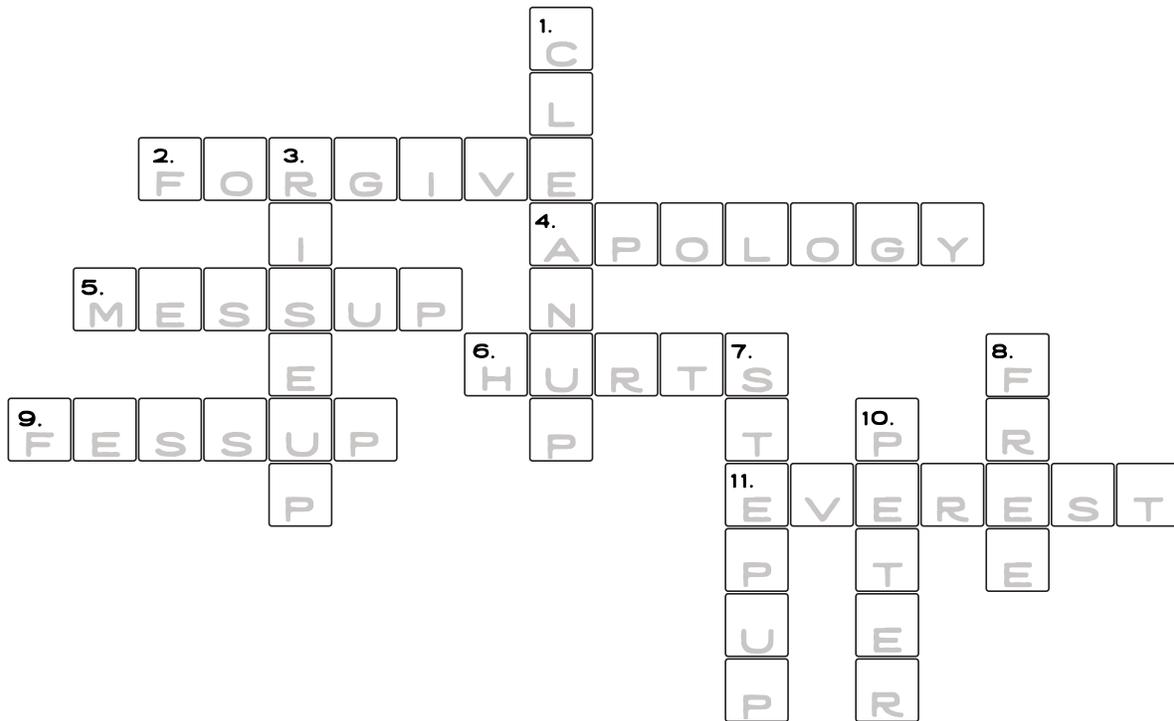
Across:

2. To erase a hurt or sin
4. Own It, Show It, Ask IT are three parts to what
5. When something bad or ugly happens
6. A painful thing that happens
9. To admit you did something wrong
11. The tallest mountain on Earth



ACTIVITY 6: FORGIVENESS CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY



PETER AND JESUS

Down:

1. To make right a wrong
3. To restore a relationship after a Mess-Up
7. The last phase: to help someone else forgive
8. Opposite of slave
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FORGIVING KIDS

CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 6: FORGIVING FRIEND



FORGIVING KIDS CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 2: 5 PHASES OF FORGIVENESS

You're still welcomed when you _____,

You'll find a safe place to _____.

Jesus did the _____ for you,

Ready to _____ and start new.

It's time to _____ to God's call,

Forgiveness - given free for all.



FORGIVING KIDS CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 2: 5 PHASES OF FORGIVENESS

You're still welcomed when you _____,

You'll find a safe place to _____.

Jesus did the _____ for you,

Ready to _____ and start new.

It's time to _____ to God's call,

Forgiveness - given free for all.

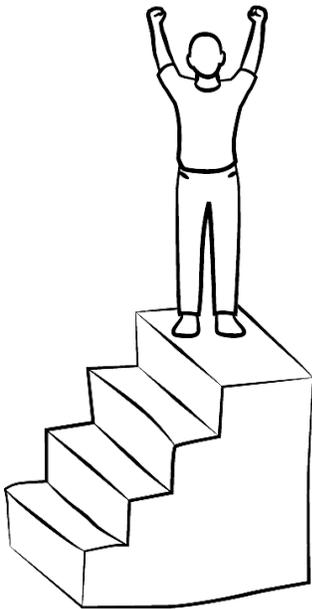


FORGIVING KIDS CHALLENGE

ACTIVITY 4: STEPPING UP!

FORGIVEN TO BE A WORLD CHANGER!

GOAL: _____



I CAN GET HERE BY DOING:

STEP 1: _____
STEP 2: _____
STEP 3: _____

I NEED THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY GOAL:

I HOPE TO REACH MY GOAL BY _____ (DATE)

