

REVEALED

WEEK 5

BIG IDEA

God forgives me.

BIBLE

Jesus Talks About Forgiveness: Luke 7:40-50; (Romans 3:23; Hebrews 10:17)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

ACTIVITY | "I'm Sorry, It's Okay"

- **When are some times we tell someone we're sorry? Why do we say, "It's okay" when someone says they're sorry?** Often times, we say "I'm sorry" and "It's okay" because we have to, and not because we really want or offer forgiveness. Today, we are going to learn what God wants us to know about forgiveness.

THE BIG IDEA | God forgives me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids you are celebrating something. If there's no obvious celebration to hold, pick a silly made-up holiday or say it's "Just Because" day. Pull out a beautiful tray of delicious cupcakes or a similar treat with lots of fanfare and pomp. Then, find a silly excuse to turn your back for a moment, and while your back is turned, have a pre-designated grownup helper dramatically take one of the cupcakes and signal for the kids not to tell you. When you turn back and discover one is gone, you – in*

an exaggerated way – try to get to the bottom of it. After a minute or two, have your teammate "fess up" to what they did.

- *Say, "I wish you hadn't taken my cupcake, but I do forgive you. Thank you for being honest with me."*
- *Now, get pretend-distracted by something else (the helper could even create a distraction), and while your back is turned this time, have another grownup helper take the whole tray of cupcakes. When you turn back around, be astonished the cupcakes are missing. The helper could be hiding them or even standing behind everyone eating one. After another exaggerated search, the helper should admit to taking them. Thank the kids for their patience and give them cupcakes (always be advised of allergies within the group!).*
- *Say, "It makes me feel sad that you (helper) took all of those special cupcakes. But I still forgive you. Because God forgives me when I do something wrong, too. And that's today's Big Idea! **God forgives me.***
- *[Optional: You can bake a piece of paper into the cupcakes, and have the helper "choke" on one of the stolen cupcakes that contains a piece of paper that has the Big Idea written on it!*

SO WHAT?

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO GOD AND US?

VIDEO | Revealed, Episode 5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

BIBLE STORY | Luke 7:40-50

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show [this video](#) of Luke 7:40-50.*
- *Let's say I borrowed one dollar from one of you. **Who wants to pretend to lend me a dollar** (Select a volunteer)? Okay, thank you, _____. So, I took this dollar from _____ and I used it, but then I couldn't pay him/her back because I didn't have any money. Would s/he be annoyed? Probably. But it's only a dollar. S/he would probably even say I didn't have to pay her/him*

back. But let's say I borrowed \$100 from that same person. And I spent it on stuff I didn't even need. **What would you be more upset about, the one dollar or the \$100?** But then let's say that ___ said not to pay him/her back at all! **What's more shocking – letting go of one dollar or \$100?**

- The people in today's Bible story were upset at the woman because they thought she wasn't a very good person, and she was taking up so much of Jesus' time and attention. **But what did Jesus say to that?** Jesus makes the point that the person who had been forgiven for a bigger thing (like owing more money) would be even more grateful than the person who had been forgiven for a smaller thing (like owing less money). Jesus knew the woman really needed a lot of forgiveness, and she was so thankful Jesus gave it to her!
- **Have you ever done something wrong or hurt someone and then felt bad about it?** That's because even though God made us for greatness, sometimes we mess up and do things God doesn't want us to do. That's why we all need God to forgive us. And the good news is, God does!

ACTIVITY | Worst Kept Secret

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each group a small canvas or white art paper and ask the kids to write "God forgives me" with a white crayon in whatever way they want on the canvas. Afterward, ask the kids to paint everywhere on the canvas (Markers are an acceptable alternative, but paint is more exciting and dramatic). Hang the complete Big Idea reveal art up to dry.
- I know we made the hidden message pop out of canvas/paper using paint, but it really is no secret. **God forgives us.** And we should let everyone know it!

ACTIVITY | Practice Forgiveness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out the **Week 5 printable** and cut it out. Put each of the pieces of paper into a hat or a container. Have kids take turns picking a piece of paper and describing what they would say and/or do to show true forgiveness in each of the situations.
- **Which of these situations was the hardest for you to forgive? Which was the easiest? Why?**
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- Take your discussion further by asking some additional thought-provoking questions: What makes the difference in how much someone is grateful for being forgiven?; What makes the difference in how hard or easy it is to forgive someone?; Explain what "forgiveness" means without using the word "forgive."

SCRIPTURE | Romans 3:23; Hebrews 10:17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Romans 3:23, then show [this video](#) (or another like it that explains this verse). Queue up Hebrews 10:17 for later.
- Yes, it's sad that everyone sins. But God found a way to forgive us of all our sins by sending Jesus to save us. And once we receive God's forgiveness, the Bible says (read Hebrews 10:17). That's right – God's not even going to remember our wrongdoing. Isn't that amazing?

NOW WHAT?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT?

REFLECTION | Forgiveness for What?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put some soft music on in the background: You could ask a musician within your ministry to play live, or try some of these [chill worship songs](#) or even pick some classical pieces, like [Bach's Chorale Cantatas](#), to play quietly. Invite the kids to move around the room a little bit, and tell them they get three minutes to think about things they want to ask God to forgive. Offer examples beforehand. God can forgive when we are mean to our siblings, when we don't respect our guardians, when we cheat on a quiz or test, when we lie to a friend, when we don't try our best. Give kids a few minutes to think about what they need God to forgive them for.
- No matter how good we are, we still mess up. When we think about it, we can all think of things we do that hurt God and hurt people and even hurt ourselves. So, we need forgiveness, don't we? This is why our Big Idea today is so important. God forgives me and God forgives you, too!

ACTIVITY | Forgive and Forget * OPTIONAL ***** ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Now, invite the kids to write their responses to the previous reflection activity on pieces of dissolve paper and help younger kids write theirs. After everyone has finished, have the kids take turns submerging their papers into a bowl of water and watching the paper dissolve to show God will forgive our sins!*
- Remember we just read in Hebrews 10:17 that God will no longer remember the things we did wrong once we are forgiven? And unlike us, who likes to remember every wrong thing someone has ever done to us, God keeps that promise of "forgive and forget." Take a moment to thank God for not holding our mistakes against us!
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Repeat this activity, but this time, have them write down something someone else did or said about them that they need to forgive. Say, "Just like how Jesus forgives and forgets our sins, let's do the same for people who need our forgiveness."*

PRAYER ▲

- **God, thank You for forgiving us. We are sorry for the stuff we do that makes You sad. We are sorry for the times we are mean or we lie or we cheat. Thanks for always forgiving us and helping us stay away from the things that do not please You.**

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split your kids into two teams (or choose two kids to play up front). Ask them to go back and forth, quoting the verse one word at a time. The first person to forget a word is out.*

SMALL GROUP TIME**DISCUSSION** ▲

- **Why were the people in the story mad at the woman?**
- **Why do you think the woman was so happy and grateful to be around Jesus?**
- **Why did Jesus tell the story of the two men who owed different amounts of money?**
- **Re-read Romans 3:23. Who needs God's forgiveness?**
- **How does it feel when you know you've done something wrong or hurt someone?**
- **Describe a time when you needed forgiveness.**
- **Why do you think forgiveness is important?**

ACTIVITY | Shine a Light

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Make double-sided photocopies of the printable provided in your Week 5 'printables' folder (preferably on slightly thicker paper so the image on the back is not easily viewable). Inside the blank box on the front side, ask the kids to draw a picture of themselves. They could color the drawing and add in text like their name, and "Thank you, God, for forgiving me." Then, have them hold their drawing up to the light. The word "FORGIVEN" should appear.*
- This week, any time you make a mistake or do something wrong, stop and tell God you are sorry. Make sure you always say, "Thank you," because God will forgive you!

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3

INSTRUCTIONS: *Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*