

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Forgive others because God has forgiven you.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that prayer reminds us of the importance of forgiveness.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:12 & Matthew 18:21-35, The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

MEMORY VERSE:

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

God's forgiveness is available to everyone who accepts it and puts their faith in Jesus. Just as we have been forgiven, God expects us to extend forgiveness to others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to forgive as you forgave us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"This is how you should pray. Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT)

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Say the verse with the kids a few times. Then say it backwards. Then forwards again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SKIT

FORGIVE?? ME??

ITEMS NEEDED:

Sleeping bags and pajamas

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2F

CHARACTERS:

Lily and Alice - Two friends having a sleepover

Lily and Alice enter and kneel down to pray.

LILY: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Hold on a second. Debtors? Is this a special part of the prayer for Visa and MasterCard?

ALICE: Visa and MasterCard?

LILY: Because I don't know about you, but I'm too young to have a credit card. At least, according to my Mom.

ALICE: No, Lily, this part of the Lord's Prayer is not about a credit card.

LILY: I was going to say, that's an oddly specific thing to pray for.

ALICE: Well, when Jesus says debts, He means our sins, all the bad things we've done.

LILY: All the bad things?

ALICE: Anything we've done to hurt someone else.

LILY: You really mean all of them?

ALICE: All of them.

SKIT

LILY: He knows them all??

ALICE: Yes, and if we believe in Jesus, He's forgiven them all.

LILY: Wow. Heh. I don't want to sound like a terrible person, but that's a lot to forgive.

ALICE: He can forgive it all the Bible tells us. And because He does forgive it all, He wants us to forgive the people who have wronged us.

LILY: Whoa. That's asking a whole lot.

ALICE: I know. Sometimes people can be downright cruel.

LILY: You can say that again.

ALICE: But here's the thing, Lily. God has forgiven us for everything we've ever done, and if God can forgive all that, how can we not forgive other people?

LILY: Easy. We could just say no. But that would be a pretty ungrateful thing to do.

ALICE: Yes it would.

LILY: Fine. I'll forgive them. Do you hear me God? I mean if you can forgive all the mean and thoughtless things I've done, who am I to not forgive other people?

ALICE: Lily, you're on the right track.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A quarter

A hundred dollar bill

Can someone tell me which of these two things is larger? Is it the quarter, or is it the hundred dollar bill?

There's no comparison between small change and hundreds of dollars. One is certainly more valuable. If we think of the "debts" we owe God as being this hundred dollar bill, and the debts other people owe us as being this quarter, who has the bigger debt?

If we are in Christ, God has forgiven us for everything we've ever done. All the sins we've committed, and all the sins we will ever commit. Since God has forgiven us this much, how can we not forgive the people who owe us this much?

Forgiving others reminds us that God forgave us. It also shows the people we forgive that God can forgive them. Let's ask God to forgive us, and let's ask Him to give us forgiving hearts.

LARGE GROUP GAME

PAPER BOMBS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two large stacks of newspapers

INSTRUCTIONS:

Split the room and the kids in half, and place one stack of newspapers on each side of the room. When you give the signal, the kids will grab sheets of newspaper, wad them up, and toss them onto the other side of the room. Kids can toss back newspapers thrown at them in addition to the newspapers they have to start with. Let the competition continue for 60 seconds, then see who has the most paper on their side of the room. That team is the losing team.

VARIATION:

This can also be played with regular paper or small balls that won't hurt if they hit anyone.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

As God has forgiven our large number of debts, we must forgive those who have hurt us.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that prayer reminds us of the importance of forgiveness.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:12 & Matthew 18:21-35, The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

INTRO:

How many of you here this morning have credit card debt? Do any of you owe Visa or MasterCard a couple thousand dollars? What about the bank? Does anyone owe money for a car or a house? No? Okay then. Who owes their mom or dad a few bucks for something you just had to have at the store? Anyone?

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to ask God to forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors. That's not a word you hear kids saying on the playground, is it? Debt means we owe someone for something. If you borrow money to buy a house or a car, you have a debt with the bank. If you buy things with American Express, you have credit card debt. You owe money because you borrowed money to purchase something.

When Jesus speaks of debts, He means something more than money. He means sin. Sin is anything bad that we have done that hurts God or hurts other people. The Bible teaches us sin includes things like lying, stealing, using God's name in vain, or having other gods before the one true God.

The Bible also teaches us that Jesus, God's Son, paid the price for our sins on the cross. Because of Jesus, the author of the Lord's Prayer, we can have our debt forgiven. In return for this forgiveness, Jesus wants us to forgive others.

Jesus told a story that illustrates why we must forgive others. It's a story about debt - money debt - and a man who owed a great deal of money. But this story perfectly describes why we must forgive our debtors, the people who have sinned and hurt us.

READ MATTHEW 18:21-35

MAIN POINT:

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The man in this parable had a lot of debt. If Jesus had told this story today, he probably would have owed millions and millions of dollars. The man had a low paying job, and there was no way he could ever pay back that debt. But the man who owned the debt canceled it. He forgave that million dollar debt. The man couldn't have been happier.

Unfortunately, the man who was forgiven millions of dollars in debt was not so forgiving himself. He went after another man who owed him just a few dollars, and he was ruthless trying to collect. It was because of the man's cruelty that the banker changed his mind and had him thrown in jail.

Jesus wants us to know that He has forgiven us a huge debt by paying for every sin we have committed and will ever commit. If Jesus has forgiven us, He wants us to forgive others. By doing so, we not only remember our forgiveness, we can show the forgiveness of Jesus to others.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The debt Jesus paid for us cost Him dearly. The Bible tells us that the price for our sin is death, eternal separation from God. It teaches us that there's nothing we could ever do on our own to pay the price for our sins.

Jesus came to Earth specifically to forgive our sins. He was the only man who never sinned, and He died on a cross so that He could take the punishment for our sins upon himself.

Jesus paid a debt for us we could never afford. Not even a hundred million dollars would come close to paying the debt for our sins. When we consider how much Jesus has forgiven us, how can we not forgive others?

Forgiving others is easier said than done. The hurt that other people can cause us goes deep. That's why Jesus prayed for us to forgive our debtors. He knows it's hard, but He also wants us to remember that we have been forgiven. We should forgive to show other people the forgiveness of Christ, and we should forgive as an act of gratitude for Jesus forgiving us.

Jesus has forgiven us for much. He wants us to forgive the hurts others have committed against us. Let's ask God to forgive us when we pray, and let's ask Him for hearts that will forgive others.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Teach us to forgive as you forgave us.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever borrowed a few bucks from your parents to buy something fun?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:9-13

Say the verse with the kids a few times. Then say it while doing jumping jacks.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have each one of the kids recite the Lord's Prayer. If they mess any part up, they have to do five jumping jacks. If no one messes up, the teacher does ten jumping jacks.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 18:21-35

What did the master plan to do to the servant who owed him money?

What did the master do instead?

What did the servant do to the man who owed him money?

What did the master do in response?

Why does Jesus want us to forgive others?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your forgiveness. Help us to forgive others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever borrowed a few bucks from your parents to buy something fun?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:9-13

Say the verse with the kids a few times. Then say it while doing jumping jacks.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have each one of the kids recite the Lord's Prayer. If they mess any part up, they have to do five jumping jacks. If no one messes up, the teacher does ten jumping jacks.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 18:21-35

What did the master do for the servant who owed him money?

What did the servant do to the man who owed him money?

Why did the master change his mind and have the servant thrown in jail?

Why does Jesus want us to forgive others?

How can prayer help us to be more forgiving?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your forgiveness. Help us to forgive others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

The servant only owed his master a small debt.

FALSE

The master forgave his servant's debt.

TRUE

The servant was so moved by having his debt forgiven, he forgave a man who owed him money.

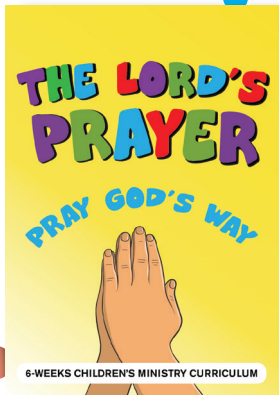
FALSE

The master had the man thrown in jail because he did not forgive his own debtor.

TRUE

If we pray, God will help us to forgive others.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Lord's Prayer Lesson 5

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: FORGIVE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

God's forgiveness is available to everyone who accepts it and puts their faith in Jesus.

Just as we have been forgiven, God expects us to extend forgiveness to others.

Matthew 6:12 & Matthew 18:21-35, The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Share with your kids any big debts you have, be they credit card, house, car, etc. Ask them what debt Jesus has paid for us.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why was the servant with the debt punished by his master?
- What debt has Jesus forgiven for us?
- Why does God want us to forgive others?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)



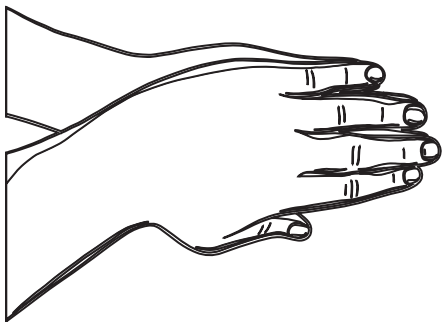
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

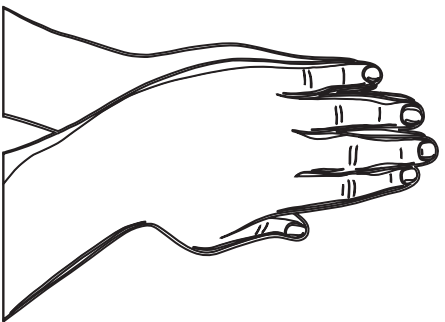
If God has forgiven us so much, how can we not forgive in return? Ask God to give you and your children forgiving hearts so you can share God's forgiveness with others.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

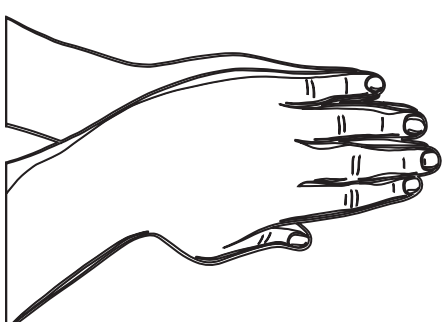
Have the kids make fake million dollar bills that can be a reminder of the debt that Jesus forgave for us. They can use these as bookmarks in their Bibles.



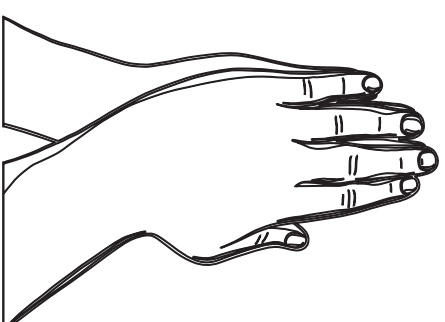
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