

Q10

KIDS' WISDOM

A Friendly Thing Called Forgiveness

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Lesson Overview

Today, we're going to talk about a very important thing that every follower of Jesus should be known for in their lives. We should be forgiving people. Forgiveness means that we choose not to pay someone back when they hurt us. Now, make no mistake, forgiveness isn't easy. Think about that friend who left you out at recess or called you a name. You probably wanted to pay them back by being mean back. That seems like the right thing to do. But, that's not what Jesus modeled for us. The Bible says that we all have a sin problem that has broken our relationship with God. So, Jesus came to die to pay for OUR sins in order to fix us. Did you catch that? Our sin makes us mean and disrespectful toward God but Jesus didn't respond by being mean and disrespectful to us. He forgave us! And, because of that forgiveness, we can be friends with God. So, forgive your friends when they mess up so you can make friends, not enemies.

Big Idea

We should forgive others because Jesus forgives us

Key Question

What happens if we don't forgive?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 17:9 NCV "Whoever forgives someone's sin makes a friend, but gossiping about the sin breaks up friendships"

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Share a time a friend hurt your feelings. How did you respond?** (Tip: Sometimes, our friends are mean. It would be easy to get paybacks but God wants us to have a different response.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We become angry people with no friends.** (Unfortunately, you will experience times when your friends are mean or your siblings will do things that make you angry. You can't control what they do but you can control your response. You can choose to forgive them and give them a chance to make it right. You can be kind and patient instead of angry and vengeful. Choosing to forgive makes us peacemakers, not enemy makers.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why should we forgive? What happens in our hearts when we don't forgive? **4th-5th** What are some real consequences for being unforgiving?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Colossians 3:13. What does it mean to make allowances for someone's faults? Why should we be forgiving people?** (Answer: Making allowances is just a fancy word for being forgiving and patient. Nobody is perfect and we all make mistakes so we should be forgiving of our friends when they mess up because we will mess up, too. And, Jesus forgave us even though we didn't deserve it or earn it. So, we should forgive because Jesus has forgiven us.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: MEMORY VERSE GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, put the Memory verse words (page 5-6) in a bowl or basket.
- Have kids take turns coming up to pull a word out of the bowl. Tape each word on the whiteboard as you go.
- Once all the words are on the board, work as a class to get them in the right order to say the memory verse.

Supplies needed: Memory Verse template (pg. 5-6, precut, 1 set per class), Tape, Bowl/Basket

OPTION 2: FORGIVE OTHERS CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Forgiveness template (page 7).
- Have them cut out the circle and the hands/rectangle piece.
- Give each kid a set of eyes and have them glue them on the circle and then have them draw the rest of a face on the circle. Have them color the rectangle and hands.
- Have them glue the head to the middle of the rectangle.
- As they work, remind the kids that just like Jesus has forgiven us, we should forgive others. When we do, we'll make more friends and we'll be a good friend.

Supplies needed: Forgiveness template (pg. 7, 1 set per kid) Scissors, Crayons, Glue, Eyes (2 per kid)

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Memory Verse

Proverbs 17:9 (NCV) Whoever forgives someone's sin makes a friend, but gossiping about the sin breaks up friendships.

Forgiveness Means You _____ Not to Pay Someone Back When They _____ You

When people are mean to you, you probably want to be mean back. You want to make them feel sad because they made you feel sad. It's really easy to think that way, but that's not what you're supposed to do. Just because someone is rude to you doesn't mean you can be rude back. You can choose to forgive them. You can choose to be nice even though they don't deserve it.

We Should _____ Because Jesus Forgives Us

Have you ever wondered why it's so important for us to forgive? Well, it's because Jesus forgave us first. Do you know why Jesus had to forgive us? Because we have a sin problem and our sins made God sad. So, Jesus came to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven for our sins. How awesome is that?! If Jesus hadn't forgiven us, we wouldn't be able to live in Heaven with him! We are supposed to try to live our lives like Jesus did, so we should want to forgive the people that hurt us too.

The Best _____ Know How to Forgive

Proverbs 17:9 (NCV) Whoever forgives someone's sin makes a friend, but gossiping about the sin breaks up friendships

Bad friends hold grudges and end up losing a lot of friends. No one wants to be around someone who won't forgive them when they mess up. But if you learn how to forgive you will make friends, just like it said in the verse! Learn how to forgive now, while you are young, and as you get older you will make lots of friends.

Answers: Choose, hurt, forgive, friends **Parent Signature:** _____

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Share a time a friend hurt your feelings. How did you respond?
3. What does it mean to forgive someone?
4. Why did Jesus die for us?
5. Read *Colossians 3:13*. What does it mean to make allowances for someone's faults? Why should we be forgiving people?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

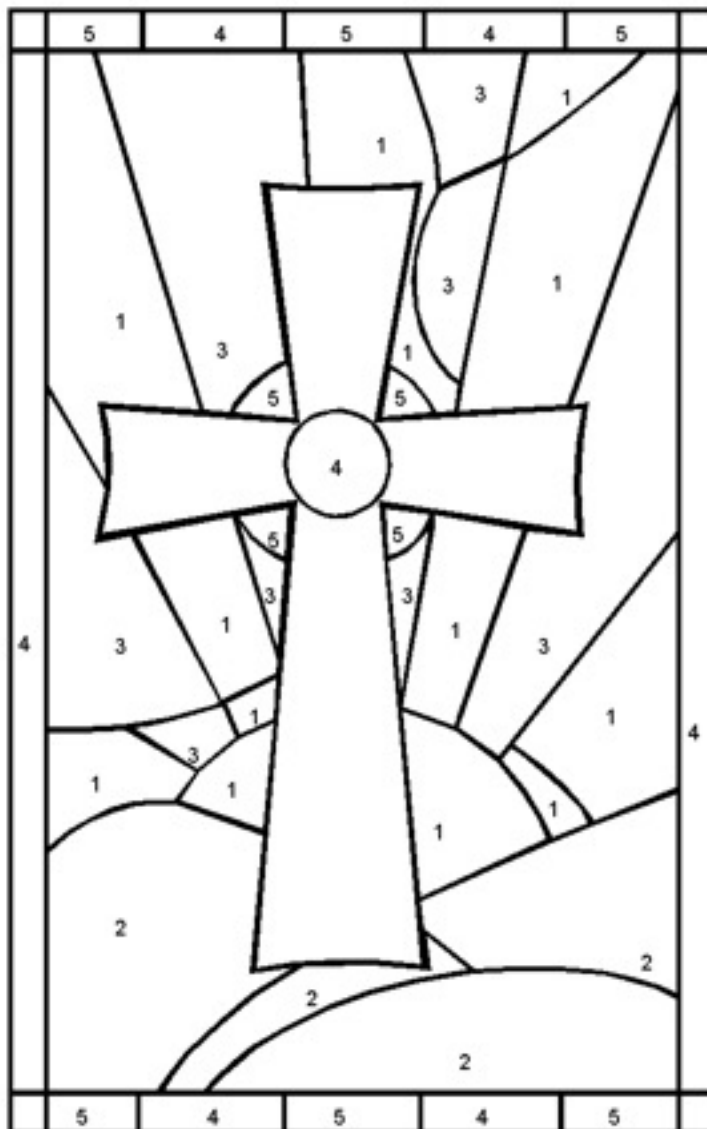
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- 1 - yellow
- 2 - green
- 3 - blue
- 4 - purple
- 5 - red



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| WHOEVER | A FRIEND |
| FORGIVES | BUT |
| SOMEONE'S SIN | GOSSIPING |
| MAKES | ABOUT |



| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| THE | FRIENDSHIPS |
| SIN | PROVERBS 17:9 |
| BREAKS UP | |



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