



Lesson 48

1st-4th

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

July 18 & 19

GOD FORGIVES



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive. Jesus said, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times" and goes on to tell the parable of the unforgiving servant. The story was about a servant who was forgiven a huge debt by his master, but then refused to forgive someone else who owed him a small amount. The master was upset because the servant did not show the same mercy and forgiveness he had received from the master.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God has forgiven each of us in a big way by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins. Because of this gift of grace that we don't deserve, God wants us to forgive others too!

Matthew 18: 21-35

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

AWANA clubber registration is live!
Wednesdays @ 6:15pm starting Sep 16
at RR, WH, MO and DT!
woodmenvalley.org/awana

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Awesome News 2.0



KEY VERSE:

*"Finally, let the Lord make you strong.
Depend on his mighty power."*

Ephesians 6:10, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

ACTS School Lunch Donations

Have you ever struggled with being hungry? It can make us feel tired, sad or worried. There are many kids in our city who are facing this challenge - they don't have enough food.

We can help! When we donate snacks, we're not just giving food — we're showing God's love to kids who need encouragement and care.

LET'S PRAY FOR THE KIDS WHO WILL GET THESE FOOD ITEMS:

Pray for them to feel loved & their hearts to be open to hearing about Jesus

Pray for their families



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.



SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, *(insert child/parent name)*!

Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and mark it with a sticky note. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God Forgives!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.



SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.



SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God Forgives**. This story comes from the Bible in **Matthew 18: 21-22**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?



DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who is our story about today?

Jesus, Peter and us

2. What is the problem?

Peter asked Jesus how many times we need to forgive others.

3. What will God do?

Jesus told a parable of the unforgiving servant to help His followers understand that we are to forgive others always and often.

Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Forgiveness Door Hanger

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Door Hanger paper, crayons/markers



DO:

Have kids color and decorate the door hanger. Encourage them to hang it somewhere they'll see it and remember to pause and ask God to help them forgive others.



SAY:

Today's story is about how God forgives us and wants us to forgive others. Jesus told a story to help people understand that because God forgives us in a big way, we can forgive others too. When we remember how much God loves and forgives us, it helps us show forgiveness to others!



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



**GOD
FORGIVES!**

MATTHEW 18:21-35



PAUSE!

**IS THERE SOMEONE I NEED
TO FORGIVE TODAY?**

6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: King of my Heart

SONG 2: Open the Eyes of my Heart



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



PRAYER

Help create a smooth transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.



OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God Forgives!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: heart stickers (1 per kid), felt hearts (1 per kid), Cross worship response station



SAY:

Jesus told a parable to help us understand that because God forgives us, we should forgive others. It's because of the gift of grace God gave us through Jesus' death and resurrection. It's not easy to forgive others, but God helps us!



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***God forgives! Even when we make bad choices, God loves us so much that He will forgive us when we come to Him!***
 - ***Close your eyes and think if there's anything you need to tell God about and ask forgiveness for.*** After a few moments, have teachers pass out stickers and invite kids to put one on the cross to remind themselves that God forgives them!
 - ***Now, close your eyes again. Is there someone you need to show forgiveness to who has hurt or upset you recently? Just like God forgave you?*** After a few moments, have teachers pass out felt hearts for kids to take home.
 - ***This felt heart is for you to take home as a reminder that you can forgive others because God forgives you!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



PRAYER

Help create a smooth transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.



OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.



SAY:

God gives to us...so we give back to God! Offering is an opportunity every week to give some of our money to God as a way to say "Thank you, God!" for all He has done for us.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY: *May you know that God is loving and forgiving. You can always run to Him!*

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus, Peter and us

2. What was the problem?

Peter asked Jesus how many times we need to forgive others

3. What did God do?

Jesus told a parable of the unforgiving servant to help His followers understand that we are to forgive others always and often.

4. Why does this matter to me?

God forgave me in a big way by sending Jesus to rescue me from my sins. Because of this gift of grace, I should forgive others too!

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can ask God to help me forgive others; I can thank God that He forgives me everyday!



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing their parent the announcement card.