

MEMORY VERSE

“Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us.”

Luke 11:4a

AGES 6-7

A FORGIVING HEART

Jesus told a story about a king and his servants. The king showed kindness by forgiving the servant’s very large debt, a debt he never would have been able to repay—but the servant refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount money. The king had a right to be upset! Jesus is our King, and He set the example for us by forgiving all our sins. We obey Him by forgiving others.

YOUR CHALLENGE:

Put the Flav-Or-Ice pops that your group leader gave you in the freezer at home. Meanwhile, think of someone who has said or done something that hurt your feelings. It could be a brother or sister, a classmate at school, or even an adult in your life. Don’t tell this person about how they hurt you. Just give him or her the popsicle as a simple act of God’s love.

POWER POINT
I will forgive because I’ve been forgiven.

LESSON
6

Bible Lesson:
Matthew 18:23-35

Forgiveness isn’t a popular idea. Movies and TV are full of people out to “get” someone who wronged them. Sometimes, we have a right to be angry at people who hurt us. But when we let go of our hurts and forgive, we feel more at peace. Forgive others—it’s truly what Jesus would do.

MEMORY VERSE

“Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us.”

Luke 11:4a

AGES 8-10

A FORGIVING HEART

Jesus tells a story about a king who forgave a servant a very large debt, a debt the servant could never have repaid. The servant then refused to forgive a fellow servant a much smaller debt. The king was furious, and imprisoned the unforgiving servant to make the man an example to everyone else in his kingdom. If we have experienced God’s mercy, we must follow His example and show mercy to others. Forgiveness is a wonderful way to show gratitude to the One who forgave us first.

YOUR CHALLENGE:

Look up “forgive” in a concordance to see what else God has to say about forgiveness. Ask your parents if you need help. Select one verse on forgiveness to memorize. With a piece of construction paper and some markers, make a cool poster of the verse to hang on your bedroom wall. Set a goal of reciting this verse from memory by the end of the week. Think on this verse when you’re in a situation that calls for forgiveness.

POWER POINT
I will forgive because I’ve been forgiven.

LESSON
6

Bible Lesson:
Matthew 18:23-35

Some people see forgiveness as a sign of weakness. In reality, it takes a strong, mature person to forgive! When you choose to forgive, you are stepping out in bold obedience to Jesus. You’re worshipping Him with your life, not just your words.

MEMORY VERSE

“Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us.”

Luke 11:4a

AGES 11-12

A FORGIVING HEART

Jesus often imparted values to His followers by telling memorable stories. A king forgave a servant’s huge debt, a debt he would never have been able to repay—but the servant refused to forgive his fellow servant a much smaller debt. “What a jerk,” you might be tempted to say, without realizing we often act the same way. Jesus set a better example for us, offering forgiveness for all our sins. When we move past our hurts and forgive others, God blesses our obedience to Him.

YOUR CHALLENGE:

Create a volcano at home to remind you of how destructive it is to not forgive. Form a hill of dirt outside, then place a small, clean glass jar (such as a baby food jar) inside. Pour ½ cup baking soda into the jar, add a few drops of red food coloring, then 1 cup of vinegar. Watch as the lava runs down! Remember that staying angry at others and withholding forgiveness makes an even bigger mess in your life. Make a choice to obey Jesus and follow His example of mercy.

POWER POINT

I will forgive because I’ve been forgiven.

LESSON 6

**Bible Lesson:
Matthew 18:23-35**

In our culture, forgiveness is often misunderstood. When we forgive someone, we’re not pretending that they didn’t hurt us. We’re not inviting them to hurt us again. We’re looking past our own hurt to see a person who’s loved by Jesus, just like us. Forgiveness is a powerful way to make our faith real in the real world.