



## God Forgives – The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

### God Statement: Jesus is Amazing

**KEY VERSE:** “They were amazed at his teachings because his message had authority.”  
(Luke 4:32, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: God Forgives**

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God forgives!

**SAY:**

What does it mean to forgive? **Let kids respond.** Forgiveness is when we choose to let go of a past hurt or wrong, and NOT pay someone back what they deserve for hurting/wronging you. Have you ever had to forgive someone who hurt you/wronged you? Was it easy or hard? **Let a few kids respond.** It’s not always easy to forgive others, especially when they really hurt us, but there is someone who ALWAYS forgives us even when we hurt Him.

Who forgives us ALL the time? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** God forgives us constantly! We mess up every day, and God gives us grace and forgiveness. Today, we're going to learn how Jesus wants us to be forgiving. It's not easy, but God tells us He will help us do just that! First, let's do this activity.

**MAKE:**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

**Forgiveness Chatterbox!**

**Supplies:** one chatterbox paper per child, markers/crayons

**Directions:** Pass out one origami chatterbox per child. Have them decorate their pictures on each piece, as you talk about the ways you can forgive others.

**Say:** *Today we get to learn about something wonderful! Forgiveness! I wonder how God can help us to forgive others? Let's see if we can learn some of these ways as we create a craft!*



# LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

## WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

### *Host*

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

### **Expectations Slide**

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

*\*\*\* After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.\*\*\**

## KEY VERSE

### *Host*

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.*

**"They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority."  
(Luke 4:32, NIRV)**

*\*\*\* After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.\*\*\**

## OPENING WORSHIP

### *Worship Leader*

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:**

- What a Friend
- Awesome God
- Closing: Gratitude

*\*\*\* After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\**

## BIBLE STORY

### *Lesson Video*

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### ***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Forgives – The Unforgiving Servant***

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\**

## WORSHIP RESPONSE

### *Host*

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

***Supplies:*** trash bins – 2-3 around the room, coin cutouts, markers/pens

God forgives! Jesus taught us today that because He has forgiven us, we should go and forgive others too. We all mess up, right? We all make mistakes. And when we do, who can we always turn to, to ask forgiveness? ***Let kids respond – Jesus/God!*** That's right, God. God will always forgive us.

Have you ever had someone hurt you or not do what they said they would do for you? How did that make you feel? ***Let kids share.*** Sometimes people can do wrong things towards us and it hurts, but just like Jesus forgives us, He wants us to forgive them too. It's not always easy, but we can trust that God will help us to forgive when we can't do it on our own.

### **FORGIVENESS COINS ACTIVITY:**

***Have teachers pass out the paper coins and a marker/pen to each kid. Turn on soft worship music in the background.***

Let's take some time now to reflect and respond. As you look at the coin in front of you, first ask yourself – is there anything I need to ask forgiveness from God for? If so, write/draw that thing on the coin. Then, ask yourself – is there anyone I need to show forgiveness to? If so, write/draw that person the coin.

Then, when you're ready, take your coin and crumple it up and throw it in one of the trash bins around the room. As you do that, remember that just like you threw it away, God has forgiven you from that! And God helps you forgive others!

***Once all the kids have responded, close by saying:***

I'm so glad that God forgives. I can trust that even when I make mistakes, which is a lot, God will always forgive me when I ask for it. Let's pray and thank God for His forgiveness.

***Close time in prayer.***

***\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.\*\*\****

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

### ***Worship Leader***

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

***\*\*\*After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.\*\*\****

## **COMPASSION & OFFERING**

### ***Host***

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.***

***\*\*\*After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\****

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – COSILoveYou Backpack Bash!**

**Host**

*Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.*

Can you believe it? The new school year is almost here! What are you most excited about for the school year ahead? **Let kids respond.**

What a unique opportunity we've had to provide backpacks for kids and friends right here in our city! Because of your help, many of the families in our community are better prepared for the school year ahead!

Let's continue to pray for the kids who will receive backpacks and for the school year ahead!

***Invite a couple of kids to come up and pray for the kids who will receive a backpack through the Backpack Bash!***

***\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\****

**BLESSING**

**Host**

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***May God fill you with His love and forgiveness this week. May you pour out that love and forgiveness on those around you!***

## SMALL GROUP

### *Classroom Teachers*

**(10 minutes)**

#### **Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: The Unforgiving Servant**
  - a. **What did Peter ask Jesus?** (How often should I forgive someone who sins against me?)
  - b. **Why did the servant end up going to jail until he paid back his money even though the king forgave his debt at the beginning of the story?** (He did not forgive or show mercy to the servant who owed him money.)
3. **Jesus forgives us of our sins and this parable teaches us that we must also forgive each other when others sin against us. Put your thumb up if you have ever forgiven someone when they did something wrong to you. How did it feel when you forgave them? Is it always easy to forgive? Say your answer out loud! Put your thumb up if there is someone you haven't forgiven for something they did to you. Keep your thumb up if you think that maybe you could forgive them from your heart this week. Keep in mind that our father in heaven forgives us every time we sin, simply by believing in Him. That's pretty amazing right? Let's try to be like Him and forgive others too.**

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

#### **Older Kids:**

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Matthew 18: 21-35**
  - a. **What does Peter ask Jesus?** (How often should I forgive someone who sins against me?)
  - b. **In the story, what did the king do for the servant when he begged for more time to pay his debt?** (He took pity on him and forgave his debt.)

- c. **What did the servant do to his fellow servant when he asked for more time to pay his debt?** (He had the man thrown in prison.)
  - d. **What ended up happening to the first servant?** (The king found out and had him thrown jail to be tortured until he paid back all of his debt.)
3. **Put your thumb up if you have ever forgiven someone when they did something wrong to you. How did it feel when you forgave them? Is it always easy to forgive? Say your answer out loud!**
  4. **Put your thumb up if there is someone you haven't forgiven for something they did to you. Keep your thumb up if you think that maybe you could forgive them from your heart this week. What might you say to someone you are trying to forgive? Let's call on a few friends to give us some ideas.**
  5. **Keep in mind that our Father in Heaven forgives us every time we sin, simply by believing in Him. That's pretty amazing right? Let's try to be like Him and forgive others too.**

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*  
**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### **PLAY: Chatterbox Game**

**Supplies:** chatterboxes (made in the explore activity)

**Directions:** Have children get into pairs and play the chatterbox game. Having one player pick an option on the outside, then an option on the inside, and then having the child read the way they can forgive someone else. As they take turns playing with the paper chatterboxes, encourage them to share with their buddy, one way they have forgiven someone else. After a couple of minutes have them switch buddies and find a new one.

**Say:** *Today we got to learn about forgiveness. Let's play a game and share ways we can forgive others, to help us remember how we should forgive others too!*



## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*