



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.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Real Love
- Shine a Light

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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)

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: MONEY/BAG OF COINS

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Today we have, some **money**! It's a bag of coins! What is money for? (Yes, you buy things with it!) If we want something from a store or food from a restaurant, we must use our money to pay for it. Let's pretend that you went to a toy store with one of your grown-ups and found a toy that you really wanted. Your grown up told you that you could use your own money to buy it for yourself, but you didn't bring your money with you that day. They tell you that they will buy it for you if you pay them back the money later. Sounds fair right? Well then you get home, and you realize that you don't have enough money to pay them back for the toy. Uh oh! Now they could just get upset with you, or they could give you some time to earn more money, or what if they just forgive your debt all together which means you don't have to pay! Hmm...we're going to hear a similar story today, but the lesson here isn't really about forgiving the money someone owes you. It's about how we should forgive others in all ways. Let's figure this out together.

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 this time.

Supplies: *worship song in PowerPoint, ribbons or instruments if accessible*

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 Compassion & Offering slides.******

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!*

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.