

DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
THREE

MARCH 2020

GRADES
K-1

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another.
Forgive one another if
you are holding something
against someone. Forgive,
just as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13, NIV

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that
someone who has wronged
you doesn't have to pay

BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step
to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers
Hopscotch

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Anything Ever" from *At the Top of My Lungs*
"Never Gonna Be" from *At the Top of My Lungs*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Obstacle Course Chain
Freeze Dance
Step by Step
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container

HOPSCOTCH

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Floor tape
 - Use the tape to create a hopscotch board on the floor.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

*** 1. OBSTACLE COURSE CHAIN**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Items to create an obstacle course, such as: cones, hula hoops, tunnel, chairs
 - If possible, set up the course in advance, or during Large Group, if Large Group takes place in a separate room from Small Group.

2. FREEZE DANCE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Music

3. STEP BY STEP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Step by Step" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Large piece of butcher paper
- Crayons
- Wall tape

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper from the "Step by Step" activity

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24



PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13, NIV

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your few would learn something new about God and learn something new about forgiveness. Ask God to give them courage to be brave and take a step toward forgiveness with their friends and family.

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, greet them by name and invite them to put their offerings in the container.
- After they have settled in, play a game of "Simon Says," but only give commands that have to do with their feet, such as: stomp, jump, run, skip, walk, tiptoe, etc.
- If you wish, let kids take turns being Simon.
 - Let each round's winner be the next Simon. Or choose the kid who's showing the most self-control and participating in the game by following the rules.

BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

MEMORY VERSE

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MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and
taps into the energy in the body

2. HOPSCOTCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared hopscotch board

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to play hopscotch, hopping on one foot through the single squares and on two feet through the double squares.
- Allow them to get creative by counting, going backward, going fast, jumping with both feet, etc.
- Keep the pace quick, so that kids aren't getting bored waiting for their turn on the hopscotch board.
- Instruct them to move through the board quickly and then hop back in line for their next turn!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Way to play hopscotch! It was fun coming up with new ways to move through the board. **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group, where we will learn what Jesus says about taking steps toward forgiveness!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

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LIFE APP

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BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

* 1. OBSTACLE COURSE CHAIN

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared obstacle course

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell kids that they are going to do an obstacle course.
- Guide the kids to line up on one side of the obstacle course.
- Start by sending one kid through the obstacle course and use her as an example to show the rest of the group how to go through the course.
- Make sure to provide guidance and instruction about which obstacles to go through, around, under, over, etc.
- Once the first kid gets back to the start, send the next kid through the course.
- This time, tell kids that as soon as the person in front of them takes the first step toward the first obstacle, the next person starts going as well.
- As kids finish, let them jump back in line and do the course again.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.
- Because kids will be going through the obstacle course essentially all at one time, make sure to monitor them closely so they don't get bunched up or do something that would be unsafe.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys did such a good job getting through the obstacle course! Just like you started your turn on the course as soon as the person in front of you took the first step, Jesus taught about how it is important to take the first step toward forgiveness. Forgiveness is so important that Jesus said we should do it **FIRST!** How do you feel when somebody does something annoying to you on purpose or takes something of yours without asking? (*Mad; annoyed*) What do you normally want to do when that happens? (*Do it back; yell; stay mad; tell the teacher or a parent and make them get in trouble*) It's okay to be mad or annoyed, but Jesus said it's important not to **STAY** that way. When someone's done something wrong to you, it's important to **take the first step to forgive others.**"

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

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2. FREEZE DANCE

WHAT YOU NEED: Music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Play some upbeat music and encourage kids to dance however they want to.
- After about 15 seconds, stop the music and tell kids to freeze!
- Once the kids are frozen, call out one way that we can take a step toward forgiving others or showing others that we have forgiven them.
- Challenge kids to quickly perform that action before the music starts back up.
- After a few rounds, feel free to let your kids create some action steps of their own!

Example Action Steps:

- High five your neighbor.
- Smile to the person on your right.
- Wave to the person across from you.
- Say hello to the person to your left.
- Give the person behind you a compliment.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a great game of freeze dance! Jesus wants us to **take the first step to forgive others**. All of the actions we just did when we froze are great ways to take a small step toward fixing a relationship. When somebody does something wrong to us, or when we do something wrong to someone else, it hurts our relationship with that person. What does it feel like when you don't have a good relationship with your mom or dad? *(Let a few kids respond.)* What about when you don't have a good relationship with a friend? *(Let another few kids respond.)* Right! It doesn't feel good when a relationship is broken. That's why, even if you weren't the one who did something wrong, it's always a good idea to try to do SOMETHING to help fix the relationship."

[Make It Personal] *(Tell about a child-appropriate time when you were brave and took a step toward forgiveness with a friend. Maybe that friend left you out of a group somehow, but you decided to text him, "Good luck," anyway, when you knew he had a big test coming up. Share how it made you feel and how it affected the relationship.)*

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

MEMORY VERSE

**Put up with one another.
Forgive one another if
you are holding something
against someone. Forgive,
just as the Lord forgave you.**
Colossians 3:13, NIV

LIFE APP

**Forgiveness—Deciding that
someone who has wronged
you doesn't have to pay**

BOTTOM LINE

**Take the first step
to forgive others.**

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

3. STEP BY STEP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Step by Step" Activity Page, butcher paper, crayons, wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the long piece of butcher paper on the floor and hang the memory verse up on the wall for everyone to see.
- Instruct the kids to trace the outline of one of their feet on the butcher paper. (The outlines will be far from perfect! But, as much as possible, let kids do the tracing themselves.) Make sure the feet are in a semblance of a line on the paper.
- Assign each kid a word or two from the verse posted above, making sure you're assigning the verse according to the order of kids' feet on the butcher paper.
- Instruct kids to write their word(s) inside their own foot outline, and then decorate the outline however they'd like.
- Once everyone is finished, practice saying the verse together a couple times. Or let kids take turns walking along the footsteps on the butcher paper, saying each word as they step on it.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our memory verse steps look so cool! Can anyone tell me why we wrote the verse on our feet outlines? Right! Because we're talking about taking the first STEP toward forgiveness! And we need feet to take steps! **Take the first step to forgive others** when they do something wrong. Instead of staying mad, remember what our verse says: forgive!"

(NOTE: In this phase, most of the things kids need to forgive or be forgiven for are relatively minor and small. But if you have kids in your group who are in difficult home situations or have been through abuse, be careful not to minimize what they've been through by implying that forgiveness is easy or simple.)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

BIBLE STORY

Step by Step

Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness
Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24

MEMORY VERSE

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BOTTOM LINE

Take the first step to forgive others.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper from the “Step by Step” activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together along the memory verse butcher paper from the “Step by Step” activity.
- Ask kids to think of one thing they can do to take a step toward fixing a relationship when something has gone wrong.
 - If kids need a few ideas to get them started, remind them of the freeze dance activity. Ask if anyone can remember some of the action steps they did whenever the music stopped.
- Let a couple volunteers share their ideas.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us be brave enough to **take the first step to forgive others**. Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us every day. Give us bravery to take the first step to fix the relationship, just like You do for us. We love You! Amen!”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their adults your group’s memory verse butcher paper.