



# Forgive

## **GOD STORY**

How Many Times Do I Forgive?

*Luke 17:1-4*

## **KEY VERSE**

“Father, may your name be honoured. May your kingdom come. Give us each our daily bread.

Forgive our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted.

*Luke 11:2b–4 (NIRV)*

## **LEADER TIP**

Prepare for the activities before the kids arrive, so you can lead with confidence and enthusiasm! Remember to pray for your group, too.

## Life Story

### **1 | CONVERSATION STARTER** (2 Minutes)

Lead into today’s lesson by talking about forgiveness, then introduce the Big Idea.

### **2 | INTRO ACTIVITY** (5 Minutes)

Divide into groups and prepare short skits that highlight ways someone could show forgiveness.

## God Story | Life Story

### **3 | WEEKLY VIDEO** (12 Minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

## My Story

### **4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY** (12 Minutes\*)

Look up and discuss Colossians 3:12–14 and Ephesians 4:32.

### **5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY** (8 Minutes)

Highlight the Key Verses for this series, then share and pray about ways the kids need to forgive or be forgiven.

## Our Story

### **6 | DISMISSAL**

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

\* Extend as needed and adjust for other activities



## Life Story

### 1 | Conversation Starter

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### LEADER TIPS

If it's Palm Sunday today, let the kids know that we're celebrating when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey. Explain that the crowd shouted, "Hosanna!" and waved palm branches to celebrate Jesus. Just five days later, these same people yelled, "Crucify him!" While Jesus was dying, he was FORGIVING THEM. That's a God-sized level of forgiveness, which we can receive, too!

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
  - Who's the last person you had to tell you that were sorry?
  - Who's difficult for you to forgive? Why?
  - Do you think we need to forgive everyone? Why or why not?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce the Big Idea: Forgive. Forgive. Forgive.

### 2 | Intro Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Scenario cards

#### LEADER TIP

If there isn't enough time for everyone to perform their skits, select a couple of groups to present

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Guide the kids to form groups of two to four people.
- Give each group a scenario card.
- Let them know that they have a few minutes to plan a short skit that shows how friends could show forgiveness in the situation described on their card.
- Direct the groups to take turns sharing their skits.



## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

#### SUPPLIES

- Video file

#### LEADER TIP

The Small Group Activity will review the video.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (How Many Times Do I Forgive? | Luke 17:1–4)
  - Key Verses segment
  - Life Story (After Jordan Bokma fell into a manure pit his dad forgave him for being disobedient. That experience reminded Jordan of how often God forgives us.)

## My Story

### 4 | Small Group Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Buzzers
- Bibles

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your small group to sit together in a circle.
- Place the buzzer in the middle of your circle.
- Explain that you will ask questions and the kids will buzz to answer. No one can buzz two times in a row.

- Ask the following questions one at a time, pausing for the kids to buzz in and respond:
  - What are the Key Verses for this series?
  - What was today's Life Story about?
  - What was the God Story about?
  - Do we only need to forgive seven times a day or was that just an example Jesus gave?
  - How often are we supposed to forgive?
  - Have you ever hurt someone or done something wrong and had to wait to be forgiven? How did it make you feel?
- Explain that when we tell God we're sorry, he doesn't wait to forgive us because he loves us. He wants other people to receive that same forgiveness from us.
- Guide the kids to find a partner. Give each pair a Bible.
- Challenge the partners to race to look up Ephesians 4:32, then buzz when they find it.
- Read the verse together.
- Discuss: What did Christ do?
- (If it's Palm Sunday) Explain that Palm Sunday came just before Easter, when Jesus provided an amazing way for us to be forgiven!
- Race to look up Colossians 3:12–14.
- Read the passage together.
- Discuss:
  - What stands out to you in these verses?
  - What do they say about forgiveness?



## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Guide the kids to find new partners.
- Remind everyone what the Key Verses for this series say about forgiving and asking for forgiveness (i.e., “forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us”).
- Encourage the partners to share about something for which they need forgiveness. For example, they may need a sibling, a parent, a friend, or God to forgive them.
- Invite them to share about someone they need to forgive or someone they have a hard time forgiving.
- Ask the partners to pray for each other.
- Wrap up by praying for your whole group.

## Our Story

### 6 | Dismissal

#### SUPPLIES

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

#### LEADER TIP

Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card as well as the monthly Key Verse card and colouring page.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.
- Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.