

4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: Big Oops Mad Libs

What You Need:

“The Big Oops” Activity Page
Writing supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “The Big Oops” Activity Page and a pencil/marker/crayon.
- Ask kids to come up with the words, then fill in the blanks.
- Ask for volunteers to read their Mad Libs out loud.

(Every Child Pro-Tip: Group kids to work in pairs or small groups.)

What You Say:

Those stories were pretty ridiculous! It’s funny how a few random words can completely change a story. In our Bible Story today, Jesus told a parable or story to change His friends’ understanding of something huge: forgiveness. Let’s go hear about it.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

[Conversation Starter] What and who do you need to forgive?

- Why do you think Jesus used a story about money and debt instead of just saying, "Forgive each other"?
- What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to understand by saying "77 times"?
- Why did Jesus compare our sin to a huge debt that we could never pay back?
- The first servant probably thought the king's mercy was awesome—until he was asked to show mercy himself.
- Why is it sometimes easy to accept forgiveness but hard to give it?
- What does this story teach us about what God is like?

Activity Name: Reflecting on Forgiveness

What You Need: ☐ Index cards ☐ Coloring supplies ☐ (optional) play soft, reflective music

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to spread out and find a quiet space in the room.
- Give each kid an index card and some coloring supplies.
- *Optional: Play some soft music if it helps create a reflective mood.*
- Ask kids to think quietly for a minute about the Conversation Starter: “What and who do you need to forgive?”
- Tell them they don’t have to share this with anyone. This is between them and God.
- Instruct them to write down the person or situation on one side of the card. They can write a name, a word, or draw a symbol.
- Give them a minute of quiet to sit with that thought and talk to God about it.
- After that quiet moment with God, ask them to flip the card over. On the other side, invite them to write or draw what they need to do or who they need to forgive.
- Give them another minute of quiet to sit with that thought and talk to God about it.

What You Say:

Forgiveness is one of the hardest parts of being a follower of God. It’s uncomfortable, and it doesn’t always feel fair. Holding onto anger is like carrying a heavy weight, but forgiving sets you free.

Jesus told the story we heard about today to teach us that God is like the good king who completely forgave a huge amount of money. When we trust that Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and choose to follow Him, God wipes out our sin debt. We were completely tied up in our sin, but now we’re free! Because God has forgiven us of such a giant sin debt, He wants us to pass that forgiveness on to the people around us. Like Jesus told Peter, we can continue to forgive without putting limits on it.

Forgiving someone doesn’t mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. It doesn’t even mean you have to keep being friends with them. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust!

Forgiving someone says you’re trusting God to make things right. And when you forgive, it frees *you* from staying angry and becoming hard and bitter. Forgiveness isn’t a feeling, it’s a choice. And when you ask God for help and choose to forgive, you are showing your world God’s good heart of forgiveness. And God will do great kingdom things when you choose to forgive. **[Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you forgive.**

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.