

Bonus Activities

Date: April 26th

Bible Passage: Matthew 18:21–35

(Parable of the Unmerciful Servant)

God Forgives

Additional activities for younger children:

You may choose to do these all on Sunday, or spread them out throughout the week, reminding your children what they learned in the past lesson.

Option 1: Forgiving Fingers (Craft)

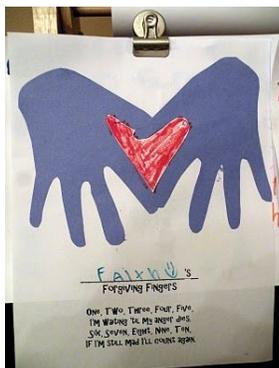
Children learn how they can use their fingers to help them calm down and forgive when they are angry at someone.

SUPPLIES

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- marker

RELATE

Today we learned that a man forgave his servant but the servant would not forget his friend. Jesus told this story to teach us that we must always forgive each other no matter what. God loves us very much and He always forgives our sins. Let's trace our hand and then cut it out and glue it on this paper with a special poem on it to help us remember to forgive. Write this on the paper (One, two, three, four, five... I'm waiting til my anger dies... six, seven, eight, nine, ten... if I'm still mad I'll count again)



Option 2: Clean hearts (activity)

In the lesson children learned that we should forgive others, and it's equally important for them to understand that God first forgave us. Children learn about God's forgiveness by first making a heart impure and dirty like our hearts feel when we "sin" or stay mad at someone and then making the heart clean and white again like our hearts feel when we ask God for forgiveness or when we forgive someone else.

SUPPLIES

- A white paper heart
- Black markers or crayons
- White paint or a glue stick and pieces of water paper

RELATE

Here is a pure white heart. You know how when you are angry at someone you feel kinda icky inside let's pretend this heart feels that way and let's color it black. Then when we stop being angry and we forgive the person we are mad at our heart feels happy again so let's paint the black heart white again. God does not stay angry at us when we sin, he forgives us painting our hearts white again and helping us to feel better after talking to him about our sins and asking for forgiveness.

Option 3: Heavy Luggage (activity)

Then he will call his friends and neighbors together. He will say, 'Be joyful with me. I have found my lost sheep.' Luke 15:6 Let's play a silly game to celebrate together and be joyful that God loves us so much he will always love us even if we sin. He celebrates when we ask for forgiveness and stop being "lost".

SUPPLIES

- Travel bag or suitcase
- Heavy shoes, books, blocks etc
- Optional: tool belt full of tools, heavy clothing, backpack with cans of food and bottles of water

RELATE

Let's go on a journey. Have your children pack the suitcase, backpack, tool belt, and dress up in heavy clothes. Then have them take turns carrying all of these heavy things around until they understand what the phrase "a burden too heavy to bear" (Psalm 38:4). You can ask them:

- How does it feel to wear all these extra clothes and to carry all this extra baggage?
- How can sin make us feel heavy?
- What can you do to remove extra weight?
- What can you do to remove the heaviness of sin?
- How do we feel after God has forgiven our sins?

Just as taking off the heavy clothing and setting down the luggage is a big relief, so we are refreshed and filled with joy when God forgives our sins and when we forgive others they feel this relief too. When we forgive others, we feel much happier than when we hold onto the anger and the other person feels so

much better too.

BLESS:: 5 min.

Children receive a blessing. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide. Read this over your children at least once this week.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Ask children to sit on the floor with you. Before speaking the blessing, encourage children to clap and cheer to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Then pray this prayer of blessing over them:

Children, Jesus is alive! May you know His great love for you today and always.

Open a Bible and read Luke 24:6a:

He has risen!