



I Spy

The Unforgiving Servant

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants me to forgive.

BIBLE BASIS: Matthew 18:21-35

KEY VERSE: “With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I am always amazed (and a little baffled) when I hear “forgiveness stories.” You know — the stories of unbelievable forgiveness that one person extends to another. The victim of a heinous crime who forgives the criminal, the abused who forgives the abuser. These stories are, to me, the greatest witness of the Christian faith. How else could we truly forgive if not from Christ’s presence in our lives?

Our verse for this weekend comes from Colossians 3:13: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

If you’re anything like me, you find that while forgiveness is one of the most powerful testimonies of our faith, it is also one of the hardest to put into practice. Let’s try to grow in our forgiveness together this week. Sometime today, think of one person you have a hard time forgiving. Plug that person’s name into our verse and let it be your prayer this week.

“Lord, help me forgive _____ as You forgave me.”

Rebecca Crews
GO! Team Member



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Small Group

Picture this scene: Moments before children’s church is scheduled to begin, a leader stands in the corner of the room with their face buried in some papers labeled “Small Group Lesson.” They seem oblivious to the kids moving quickly and loudly all around them. A bead of sweat rolls down their face. The clock ticks loudly as they read at a fevered pace. Have you seen this leader? *Are you* this leader? There’s no judgment here! We get it — life is often *really* busy and finding the time to volunteer, much less prepare, can be tough. But by investing just a small amount of time into preparation, you can go from being a good leader to a great one. Here’s how:

Read your lesson ahead of time. You saw that one coming, didn’t you? When the kids arrive, it’s game time. When you’ve read the lesson ahead of time, the kids get your full attention from the moment they walk in. When small group begins, you’ll be able to lead much more effectively if you’re not trying to figure out the lesson for yourself at the same time you’re explaining it to your group.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Many of the small group activities in the GO! curriculum have materials that go with it. When you read the lesson at home, you might have a picture of what the materials look like, but double check to make sure what you imagined matches reality when you arrive at church.

Prepare your own heart. The best way to lead the kids in your group is through example. Consider reading the Bible story ahead of time and asking yourself how it applies to your own life. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you how you need to change in light of this story.

7.3 Small Group Lesson | 2s & 3s



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

MAKE IT DISAPPEAR

Supplies: Dry erase boards

Directions: Have the children draw on the white boards. They can draw whatever they want. When they are finished, say, “Now make it disappear,” then have them run their hand over the gel so the picture goes away.

Say: In our true Bible story for today, we’re going to learn how God forgives us and makes our sins disappear, just like the drawings on these bags.

Question: Have you ever heard the word “sin” before? What do you think it means?

2s & 3s – Large Group at 10:55
Pre-K & K – Large Group at 11:15



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the Large Group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

PASS IT ON (Application Activity)

Supplies: Balloons or balls (3–4 per group)

Directions: Sit in a circle with the children, then pass the balloon from person to person around the circle. When a child receives the balloon, they must say, “God forgives me,” then pass the balloon to the next child and say, “I forgive others.” Let the balloon pass around the circle a few times so the children can practice receiving and giving. Once they’ve gotten the hang of it, introduce a second balloon to the circle. Now the children must keep two balloons moving at the same time. If they are successful, consider introducing a third and fourth balloon. When finished, remove the balloons and ask the question below.

Say: This balloon is kind of like forgiveness. God gives us forgiveness, so we should pass it on to other people. In other words, we should forgive people when they do things to us that we don’t like.

Question: When we forgive someone, it means we stop being mad at them and we don’t do mean things back. Who do you need to forgive?

BALLOON VOLLEYBALL (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Chairs (2 per group), string (8 feet per group), balloon (1 per group)

Preparation: Place two chairs about 7 to 8 feet apart. Tie a string between the two chairs. The string should be about 2–3 feet above the ground. This will serve as a makeshift volleyball net.

Today’s Bible verse:

*“With people (point to all the children),
this is impossible (two thumbs down and shake head “no”).
But with God (point up),
all things are possible (two thumbs up and shake head “yes”).”
Matthew 19:26 (extend hands like you’re holding a book).*

Directions: Practice the above verse with the children a few times. When ready, divide the children into two teams and have each team sit facing each other on opposite sides of the string. Toss the inflated balloon to one team and have them bop it over the string to the other team. (It may take more than one bop to get the balloon over the string. That’s okay.) Each time someone on either team bops the balloon, have all of the children say one word from the Bible verse (hand motions are not necessary). Continue bopping the balloon back and forth until the entire verse has been recited. If the balloon touches the ground before the verse is finished, pick it up and start over from the beginning.

7.3 Small Group Lesson | 2s & 3s



ANIMAL CROSSING (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Animal Number signs (1 set per group)

Preparation: Print out the provided Animal Number signs and tape them to the walls around the room.

Directions: Each sign will have an animal and a number on it. Move with the children to the first sign as if you were that animal. For example, move like a hippo to sign #1. When you reach the sign, ask the children what happened first in the Bible story. Try to limit the children to sharing only the beginning of the story. Next, move with the children to the second sign like the animal indicated and ask what happened second in the story. Continue moving to the different numbers until the entire story has been told.

I FORGIVE YOU (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of what they look like when someone does something mean to them (i.e. sad or mad). While they're drawing, ask the children to share about a time someone did something they didn't like.

Say: God forgives us, and He wants us to forgive other people too. Let's say a prayer to God and tell Him that we forgive the people who did things to us that we didn't like.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking God for His forgiveness and by asking God to help the children forgive others.

Question: The king forgave the first servant, but the first servant didn't forgive the second servant. Why do you think the first servant did not forgive the second servant?

Question: What would you have done if you were the first servant?

When you hear the first names be called, that is when the last song has started. Go ahead and finish up your activity and get the kids ready to go. This is a great time to turn on Topher Time with the iPad on the TV, so they can watch while kids are getting picked up, and the room stays clean. 😊