



Kids Club

Leader Guide

April

Week 3

Supplies Needed:

1. **YouTube Video** (optional): Douglas Talks - Why Forgive?
<https://youtu.be/UVdx1Y-CAbY?feature=shared>
2. **White board/marker** for leader to play “guess the word”
3. Paper and writing utensils per kid for them to make tally marks
4. **Forgiveness vs Bitterness cards**

Suggested Schedule:

- 5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break
- 20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up
- 30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer
- 10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

Today’s Focus: Forgiveness!

Weekly Verse: Colossians 3:13

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

Rock Bridge Mission: We exist to glorify God by connecting people from all walks of life to life in Christ. When we Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent we can accomplish our mission! *When we forgive others, it honors God and honors other people! This is important because when we forgive people who don't apologize to us, it demonstrates God's love for us - even before we asked Him for forgiveness of our sins, He chose to forgive us. As Bridge-Builders, we forgive people as a way to remove obstacles for people to know and experience God through their interactions with us.*

Try this: Introduce the word “forgiveness” through a “fill in the blanks by guessing the letters type of game”, give hints as needed. You can also

have them guess the book of the Bible our memory verse will come from today (Colossians).

Read this: Colossians 3:12-13, Matthew 18:21-35

Tip: The parable in Matthew is a fun story to have kids act out as you read it. It brings the characters to life and helps the kids keep track of the roles. No need to prep, just pick a few kids to assign roles and ask them to “do” what you’re reading as you dramatically read it!

The Bible helps us to learn how to show God’s love to others. The verse in Colossians encourages us to remember that people **will** make mistakes and hurt us, we **will** get offended, **but** when we think of how we hurt and offend others, too, it should give us the right perspective. **No one can possibly offend us as much as our sins have offended God.** How can we not forgive others when we are forgiven by God ourselves?

Did you know that Peter’s first suggestion of forgiving someone SEVEN times is actually really generous? It was more than what the Jewish Rabbis taught people to do - which was only 3 times. So Jesus’ response paints the picture of us having an unlimited amount of forgiveness towards others. But what if someone doesn’t ask for our forgiveness?

When we only read verses like Luke 17:4 (Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.), we can get the wrong idea that we only need to forgive people who say sorry. **Forgiveness can be one-sided.** The benefits of forgiveness are felt in our own hearts when we make this choice. The main person who gets hurt when you don’t forgive is you. Give yourself the gift of peace in your heart by choosing to forgive others.

Watch this: *(If you can, play the “Douglas Talks: Why Forgive” video)*

Do this: Have each kid write out (70) tally marks as you all list out 70 things you might have to forgive someone for. Make sure to be repetitive to emphasize that as we do life with others, we will be hurt in the same ways. The enemy knows what pushes our buttons and uses it to provoke us. Use small and “big” examples as you all share ways that people can hurt us. Once all 70 marks are made, remind them that even if we added all of our

tally marks together and someone sinned against us again, we should forgive them again!

Talk about this: God does require us to ask Him for forgiveness to receive the gift of salvation. This doesn't mean that we have to remember everything we've ever done wrong and list it all out for Him to offer forgiveness. Could you imagine if you had to say "I'm sorry" for every single thing you've ever done wrong (some people don't even choose to follow Jesus until they're adults!)? But, the Bible tells us that even when we were in our sins, God chose to forgive us (Romans 5:8)! Even though we are not equal to God (remember, He never needs *our* forgiveness), we can also freely give forgiveness even if people never apologize to us or treat us any differently!

Questions to chat through:

- When did you deserve a punishment, but got out of it? How did it make you feel? (Highlight that we are all sinners who need to be forgiven. The gift of the Gospel is that Jesus offers us the gift of not getting the punishment we deserve.)
- Can you think of someone in your life that stands out as being very forgiving? (God gives us people around us who are imitating Him, we should learn from them.)
- What does unforgiveness look like? (Help them identify the intangible parts of not forgiving others, too.)
- When have you found it truly challenging to forgive someone? (Highlight our own sin struggles like pride and not seeing others as God sees them, that makes it hard to offer forgiveness. Remind kids that the power of the Holy Spirit helps us to truly forgive.)
- What is the worst thing that you can imagine someone doing to you? How would you get to the point of forgiveness? (Please share some honest, age-appropriate examples with the kids. It is helpful for them to hear how we depend on God through our own personal struggles with showing forgiveness to others).
- What might it look like for you to forgive someone who hasn't said sorry to you? Can you have a friendship with them? (Remind kids that forgiving someone is different than reconciling (or making up) with them. We can have forgiveness without things going back to the way

they were, but when both people want to move forward, we can make up).

- Is it hard to talk to someone who has done something wrong? What might help you do so? (Prayer, perhaps writing something down in preparation, seeking advice from someone else first.)

Activity: Forgiveness vs Bitterness War

Print out a set of the words Forgiveness and Bitterness. You should have an equal number of each word.

Divide students into two teams, and have the teams line up on separate sides of the room in single file lines. Mix up the cards and give each student a card that says Forgiveness or Bitterness. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes, depending on how many students you have. When you say, "Go!" the first two students run toward each other and show their cards.

If one says Forgiveness and the other says Bitterness, the student with Forgiveness scores a point for their team. The person with Bitterness does not score. If both say Forgiveness, both score a point, and if both say Bitterness, neither does. Both return to the back of their lines and trade their cards for a new card.

As soon as they leave the center, the second two players run up and do the same thing. Play continues until the timer runs out. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Memory Verse Activity: Pass the Verse

After giving kids time to practice the verse alone, let them show what they know! Have kids sit in a circle. One kid starts by saying the first word of the verse, then they point to another kid who says the next word. Continue until the whole verse has been stated. Play additional rounds by having kids say 2 words before pointing to someone else. End when every kid can say all the words before pointing to someone else.

Colossians 3:13: "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

Bitterness	Forgiveness
Bitterness	Forgiveness
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