

## **Questions to Ask:**

1. How can forgiveness show others you love God?
2. How can forgiveness show others God loves them?
3. What opportunities can you miss out on when you choose not to forgive?

## **Things to Do:**

1. Tell kids to write the verse reference, Matthew 22:39 on a card.
2. Encourage them to write out the verse directly from the Bible, or paraphrase it on the card.
3. Challenge them to memorize the verse and place their cards somewhere as a reminder that forgiveness is important to God.

# FORGIVENESS

Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

Read Luke 6:37

DAY 1

If we're not careful, we can spend all our time pointing out other people's mistakes instead of taking a long hard look at our own behavior. Once you start judging and blaming, pretty soon you realize you're just as imperfect too.

But remember, the answer is forgiveness! Forgiveness is deciding someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. It's a choice. When you refuse to forgive, when you choose to stay angry, you miss out.

**Here's your challenge this week.** When you find yourself about to blame or judge someone else, stop yourself. Hold your tongue. Don't even let the words come out of your mouth. Make a decision to let it go so you don't miss out.

This will definitely require God's help! As you pray today, ask God to help you remember that you're not perfect. Tell Him that you love Him and ask God to help you forgive so you don't miss out this week.

Read Hebrews 10:30

DAY 2

What are some chores you're responsible for around your house?

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What are some chores your mom or dad are responsible for?

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According to this verse, whose job is it to judge? Is it yours? Nope, it's God's job. When someone says or does something unkind, you could choose to stay mad. Or you could choose to let God be the judge. It's His job anyway.

God sees and knows all. You can talk to Him and tell Him why you're mad and ask Him to help you decide to forgive. As you pray today, tell God why you're angry or sad. Talk about what happened and how you want to forgive but it's hard. Ask Him to do His job (the judging part) and help you do yours (the forgiving part) so you don't miss out.

## Read Matthew 6:14

DAY 3

Riding a bike  
Tying your shoes  
Reading aloud  
Meeting an adult  
Walking into a new classroom

Do you know what all these things have in common? They're all things that at one time seemed scary or hard. But once you practiced a little, they're not so bad! The best way to get better at anything is to practice. It's the same with forgiveness. The more you make the choice to forgive, the easier it will become. And, the more you model forgiveness, the more likely the people around you are to forgive too. Don't you want to hang out with friends that choose to forgive?

Ask your mom or dad to tell you about a time when they chose to forgive someone as a kid even when it was really hard. What happened? How did practicing forgiveness in that example help them become better at forgiving the next time?

Thank God for the reminder today that forgiveness takes practice! Ask God to help you choose to forgive this week so you don't miss out.

*When you  
don't forgive,  
you miss out.*



## Read Zechariah 7:9

DAY 4

Today's verse includes some big words that need defining!

**Justice** – the quality of being just, impartial, or fair

**Mercy** – compassion or patience shown to an offender (someone who has wronged you)

God is asking us to treat others with fairness. To show love and compassion and patience to one another, even those who hurt us. Why? Because that's exactly how God treats us! He treats us fairly. He is loving and patient and kind, always.

In the space below, rewrite today's verse in your own words. Feel free to use the words in the definitions above or to look up the verse in different translations. You could even go

BibleGateway.com (with an adult's permission) to read this verse in different translations.

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Read the words you've written today as a prayer to God, asking Him to help you choose forgiveness so you don't miss out!

*Color in the letters to the word  
FORGIVENESS and then stick it  
somewhere in your house that you  
can see often to remind you to forgive.*



# Make Me Laugh

1. Q: What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?  
A: A dino-snore!
2. Q: Why did the kid cross the playground?  
A: To get to the other slide!
3. Q: Why did the cookie go to the hospital?  
A: Because he felt crummy
4. Q: What did the little corn say to the mama corn?  
A: Where is the pop corn?
5. Q: How do we know that the ocean is friendly?  
A: It waves!
6. Q: Why can't Elsa have a balloon?  
A: Because she will let it go
7. Q: How do you make an octopus laugh?  
A: With ten-tickles
8. Knock knock!  
Who's there?  
Doughnut  
Doughnut who?  
Doughnut ask me, I just got here!
9. Q: Why did they quit giving tests at the zoo?  
A: It was full of cheetahs
10. Q: What do you call a cow that eats your grass?  
A: A lawn moo-er!

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**What to Do:**

Print one copy for each Small Group.

**Make Me Laugh**

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