

LESSON 2
“FORGIVENESS”
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Genesis 41:37-45:15
(pages 50-56)

CHARACTER WORD

Forgiveness - Treating someone as though he or she never hurt me.

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

With God's help, I can *forgive* people like God has *forgiven* me.

MEMORY LINK

Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

(KBC Study Bible pg. 1289)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Strips of paper, bag, pens

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Etch-a-Sketch or erasable drawing board

Option 1: 5 large sheets of paper

Option 2: None

BIBLE CONNECTION

Etch-a-Sketch or erasable drawing board

SURF TEAM LEADER

Memory link cards, index cards, pens, Hang 10 pages

MAKE-IT-STICK

Option 1: small plastic cone, 3 foam balls

Option 2: 2 fly swatters, index cards, 3 foam balls

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Forgiveness is a key concept in understanding the gospel. Since the very first sin in the garden, God has required a sacrifice to atone for sin. “Without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22b). Today, God offers forgiveness to all people freely, but the price wasn't cheap. It cost Jesus His life in order that our sins would be atoned.

While God offers forgiveness to everyone, forgiveness is not automatically given to anyone. Forgiveness must be requested from a place of repentance, turning away from sin, turning toward God and understanding the great price Jesus paid when He went to the cross taking the punishment for our sin.

So how does this impact forgiving others? First, consider what it cost God to provide forgiveness for us. “While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) What a picture of God's mercy and grace toward us! What prevents you from freely forgiving others? Pride, hurt, fear, anger... When you think about how much God has forgiven you through Christ, how can you NOT forgive others? God is ready to help you forgive those who've hurt you. Ask for His help and experience the freedom of forgiveness.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson



Strips of paper, bag, pens

Ask the kids to write something that someone has done to them that was hurtful. Allow the kids to share what they wrote. Put the strips of paper in the sack. Discuss the following:

- Today's story is about a man who chose to forgive his brothers.
- Today's character word is forgiveness. What does it mean to forgive?
- Why do you think it is hard to forgive?
- How does it make you feel when you choose to forgive?

Pour out the strips of paper. Allow the kids to pick up the piece they wrote on. Ask them to practice forgiveness by throwing away the paper as a symbol that they chose to forgive (use bag as a trash receptacle).



Guide clubbers to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

Worship Tip

When choosing the songs to lead at KBC, consider using songs your church's children's ministry sings in your weekly programming with kids or at VBS. Not only will your KBC worship leader have a resource to find songs, but some of your volunteers may be familiar with them. That way when the KBC kids visit your church, they will be able to join in worship.

MEMORY LINK



Teach a Bible verse to clubbers; help them memorize the verse

Etch-a-Sketch or erasable drawing board

Focus on the Bible

Hold your Bible high in the air and ask the kids to do the same. Explain that the Bible has 2 parts – the Old Testament (39 books) – where today’s story is found, and the New Testament (27 books) – where today’s Memory Link is found. The Bible is God’s message to us. It teaches us about Him and how He wants us to act toward Him and others. Today we will look at what the Bible says about forgiving.

Focus on today’s Memory Link

Write 'FORGAVE' on the Etch-a-Sketch or erasable drawing board. Note: The Bible Connection Leader will need it later in the lesson.

What will happen when I shake the Etch-a-Sketch? (shake it/erase it) That’s right. The word disappeared. It is as if the word was never written. Today’s character word is forgiveness, which is treating someone as if they never hurt you. What is the opposite of forgiving? Is it easier to act that way or to forgive? Our Memory Link tells us how we are supposed to treat others who have hurt us. Let’s read it and find out.

Instruct the kids to open their KBC Study Bibles to Ephesians 4:32 (KBC Study Bible page 1289). Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud as the others follow along. Repeat the verse several times.

It can be hard to show kindness and be tenderhearted to those who have hurt us. What can we remember that will help us forgive others? (That God has forgiven us.)

Option 1 - FAMILY IN UNISON

5 large sheets of paper

Prepare: Write each numbered verse section (below) on a separate sheet of paper.

Activity

Encourage the kids to work as a family to say the verse in unison. Assign parts of the verse to 4 sections of the group. 1: “Be kind to one another.” 2: “tenderhearted” 3: “forgiving one another” 4: “even as God in Christ forgave you.” Everyone: “Ephesians 4:32.” Ask 5 volunteers to hold up the parts of the verse as their groups reads it. Switch up the parts of the verse assigned to each group and recite again. As you go, explain that the story today is about a man who chose to do what this verse says and he forgave his family.

Option 2 - SURF TEAM FAMILY

No supplies needed

Ask the kids in your surf team to mill around the table or area until you call out the word, “family.” Once they hear the word, “family,” the kids will gather together in a group/huddle and say the verse in unison. Explain that all the members of the family need to be together before they recite the verse. Repeat as time allows. You may want to give them actions to do as they mill around such as, skip, hop, or dance. As you go, explain that our story today is about a man who chose to be kind to his brothers and to forgive them even though they hurt him years before.

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Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

(KBC Study Bible pg. 1289)

Teaching Tip

REWARD SYSTEM:

Rewards are an effective way to motivate kids. Reward systems vary and several options are listed on pages 6 and 20 in the KBC Leadership Manual. Some reasons to reward kids include:

- Brought their Bible
- Brought a friend
- Said their Memory Link from the week before
- Returned the completed Hang 10 Page
- Wore a KBC t-shirt
- Shows positive behavior and participation

BIBLE CONNECTION



LESSON 2 "FORGIVENESS" (page 3)

Teaching today's character word through gospel-centered Bible story

Etch-a-Sketch or erasable drawing board with the word SIN written on it.

Use the Bible

Guide kids to open their KBC Study Bible to Genesis 45 (page 55) and mark it so they can read along with you later. Tell the story in your own words.

Introduce the Story

Joseph was favored by his father, but hated by his brothers. Joseph told his brothers about a dream he had that one day his brothers would bow down to him. They became so angry that they threw him into a pit with intention to kill him. Instead, they sold him into slavery and told their father that a wild animal killed him. After many years, Joseph ended up in Egypt. God had a plan for good!

Genesis 41:37-57

God blessed Joseph and he became second in command over all of Egypt. He traveled the land during the 7 plentiful years storing up food. When the plenty years ended, 7 years of famine began so Joseph opened the storehouses of food.

Genesis 42:1-24

Joseph's father, Jacob, sent his sons to buy grain in Egypt. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but they did not recognize him. They said they were brothers and had a younger brother back home and that one brother was dead. Joseph knew they were talking about him.

Joseph told them they must bring back their youngest brother from home. The brothers began to talk about their feelings of guilt over what they did to their brother years before. They did not think Joseph could understand them because he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. But Joseph heard them and turned away and wept.

Talk About It

Why did Joseph weep?

Genesis 42:25-38

When they got home with the food, they told their father what happened. Jacob was sad because he had lost his son, Joseph, and now Simon, whom Joseph kept in Egypt, and might also lose his son, Benjamin.

Genesis 43

Time passed, and they had no more grain. Jacob told his sons to go back to Egypt and buy more food. The brothers told their father they could not go unless they took Benjamin. Their father finally agreed.

When Joseph saw Benjamin he commanded that a feast be prepared. The brothers thought it was a trick, but the steward of Joseph's house assured them it was not a trick. The brothers gave Joseph a present and bowed down to him on the floor. Joseph asked about their well-being and their father. When Joseph saw Benjamin he was so glad to see him that he went to his room to cry alone. When he came out he ordered for the feast to begin.

Talk About It

Why do you think Joseph cried this time?

Teaching Tip

Did you know that you can shape the kids' perspective on how they view the Bible as you tell the Bible Story? Always remember that the Bible is living and active. Be sure to communicate the stories with enthusiasm and a love for the Bible. The kids will begin to understand how important the Bible is if you communicate that message as you teach.

Try not to hold your lesson pages as you teach the Bible Story, instead teach from your KBC Bible. You may want to cut out part of the lesson to lay in your Bible or write notes on sticky note paper and stick them in your Bible for quick reminders of what you want to say. You can also write notes on the back of visuals you use for the lesson.

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Genesis 44

Joseph prepared a test for his brothers to see if they had really changed. Joseph commanded his steward to fill the brother's sacks with grain. He said to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers had left for home, but were not far off, Joseph told his steward to go get them and accuse them of stealing. He found the silver cup in Benjamin's sack. The brothers were upset thinking God was against them. Joseph said that Benjamin would be his slave and told the brothers to go home. One of the brothers tried to reason with Joseph then offered himself in Benjamin's place. Joseph realized his brothers had changed and he was ready to forgive them.

Genesis 45:1-3

Joseph could no longer restrain himself. He told everyone to leave the room except his brothers then he told them who he was and wept loudly. The brothers were stunned and could not speak.

Talk About It

What do you think you would say at this point if you were Joseph?

Use the Bible

Read Genesis 45: 4-15 (pages 55 & 56) aloud from your KBC Study Bible to conclude the story.

Memory Link Review

How did Joseph live out today's Memory Link in his reaction to his brothers?

Gospel Connection

God knows our sins and offers forgiveness to us. Show the Etch-a-Sketch with the word 'SIN' written on it. *Sin is choosing our way, not God's way. You can have forgiveness for your sins if you ADMIT that you are a sinner and ASK Jesus to forgive you of your sins. Tell God how sorry you are for your sin and repent turning away from sin. When you ask... Shake the Etch-a-Sketch so the word 'Sin' disappears... He forgives.*

BELIEVE that Jesus is God's Son and that He paid the price for your sins by dying on the cross. Finally, you can CHOOSE to FOLLOW Jesus by confessing Him as your Savior and making Him Lord, or boss, of your life.

Invite children wanting to know more about becoming a Christian to move to the designated area to meet with a leader one-on-one.

Application/Transition

Joseph understood that God had a plan for good. He chose to forgive his brothers. Is there someone you need to forgive? If you understand that God forgives you, you can choose to forgive others.

Gospel Tip

Building relationships with kids earns trust and gives you the right to be heard. When talking with a child keep your body language relaxed and open. Use eye contact and really listen to what a child has to say. Cautiously avoid leading questions and don't manipulate a child to a decision. When kids know you care they are more likely to listen to you and trust what you have to say.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with kids in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



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Memory Link Cards, index cards, pens, Hang 10 pages

Gospel Connection

Before you begin, ask if there are any clubbers who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.

Today's Lesson

- What questions do you have about today's story?
- Did Joseph's brothers deserve to be forgiven?
- When do we need to give forgiveness? (always)
- What are some benefits to forgiveness? (we feel better, pain goes away)
- What words describe feelings or things that happen when you forgive? (joy, tears, hugs, relief, etc.)

Pray

Encourage kids to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead the kids in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for kids during the week.

Father, thank you for forgiving us. Help us to forgive others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Use the Bible

Give each child a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's Memory Link.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each child a Hang 10 Page. Challenge kids to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage kids to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

More at Home

Joseph was a good example of forgiveness, but Jesus is a perfect example. To learn more, read the tip-in pages titled "Who Jesus Is" and "What Jesus Does" in your KBC Study Bible between pages 1010-1011. Memorize the four statements about what Jesus does. Jesus LOVES YOU. Jesus HEALS HURTS. Jesus FORGIVES SIN. Jesus GIVES HOPE.

Teaching Tip

Always take time to pray with your group. Not everyone will be comfortable praying out loud so be careful not to put anyone on the spot. Your kids will learn to pray from listening to you pray. They will also be blessed by hearing you specifically pray for them by name. Let them know that you are praying for them during the week.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Game to review today's Bible Connection & Character Word



Option 1 - CONE CATCH

Small plastic cone, 3 foam balls

Ask Surf Team Leaders to choose two clubbers to play. One person in the pair holds the cone and the other person tosses the foam balls. The first pair to land 2 foam balls in the cone earns the chance to answer a review question. After each round/question—the pairs playing go back to the surf teams and the surf team leader will send up 2 different clubbers. Score one point for each correct answer.

Option 2 - SWAT IT!

Two fly swatters. Write answers to review questions on index cards.

Divide each surf team into two teams; they will compete against each other. Place the answer cards face up in the middle of the playing area. One student from each team will hold a fly swatter and turn their backs to the answer cards. The leader reads a question and says 'go.' When the clubbers hear the word 'go,' they will turn around, look over the answer cards and "swat" the correct answer card. The player to touch the correct answer first gets a point for their team.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is today's character word? (forgiveness)
2. What does forgiveness mean? (treating someone as if he or she never hurt you.)
3. Who were the main people in today's story? (Joseph and his brothers)
4. How did Joseph end up in Egypt – away from his family? (his brothers sold him into slavery)
5. What did Joseph have in Egypt that his brothers needed? (food, grain)
6. Who was Joseph most happy to see? (his younger brother, Benjamin)
7. At the end of the story what did Joseph do for his family? (provided for them and gave them land, forgave them)
8. What should we do when others hurt us? (forgive them)
9. What can we remember that will help us forgive others? (that God forgives us)
10. How did God provide forgiveness for us? (Through Jesus' death on the cross.)

Teaching Tip

Read the instructions to the game you're playing several times before the club meeting so you are familiar with the steps. It also helps to practice playing games at home before club. That way, you can give your club instructions in your own words and only reference the written instructions as notes. You'll also be able to avoid pitfalls or confusion that might come up when you play.



“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

KBC Study Bible page 1289