

LESSON 3
“FORGIVENESS”
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Genesis 45:1-28 (pages 55-56)

CHARACTER WORD

Forgiveness - To pardon or release someone from the consequences of a wrong; does not hold a grudge

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, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

(KBC Study Bible, pg. 1289)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Paper, bag, Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

White board, marker, eraser

Option 1: Five large sheets of paper

Option 2: No supplies needed

BIBLE CONNECTION

No supplies needed

SURF TEAM TIME

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

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Small plastic cone, bucket/or small trash can, three foam balls

Option 2: Two fly swatters, index cards

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, meaning turning away from sin and 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 freedom of forgiveness.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Paper, bag, Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Hand each student a small piece of paper and each Surf Team Leader a bag. Ask students to write something that someone has done to them that was hurtful. Allow them to share what they wrote. Put the strips of paper in the bag and discuss the following:

- Today's character word is forgiveness. What does it mean to forgive?
- How does it make you feel when you choose to forgive?
- Pour out the strips of paper. Allow students to pick up the piece on which they wrote. Ask them to practice forgiveness by throwing away the paper in the bag as a symbol that they chose to forgive.



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

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



When selecting songs for Beach Club, consider using those your church's children's ministry sings in your weekly programming with students or at VBS. That way when students and their families visit your church, they will be able to join in worship.

Consider these song choices: “Do What It Says” (James 1:22), by Seeds Family Worship; “You Forgive Me”, by Group (Lifetree Kids); “God Forgave”, by Group Publishing VBS

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students

8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



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White board, dry erase marker, eraser for each Surf Team

Focus on the Bible

Hold your Bible high up in the air and ask students to do the same if they have one with them. *Today’s Memory Link is found in the New Testament in the book of Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 32, on page 1289 in our KBC Study Bible. This is God’s message to us today and every day. He wants us to FORGIVE.*

Focus on today’s Memory Link

Write the word FORGAVE on a white board. *Who can read for us the definition of forgiveness found on the back of your Memory Link card? (to pardon or release someone from the consequences of a wrong; does not hold a grudge) Let’s think about that. Sometimes it may seem very hard to forgive someone and not hold a grudge against them. But let’s look at what God tells us to do. This verse tells us that we should be kind, tenderhearted and forgive others because God forgave us. We need to be willing to forgive others just like Jesus is willing to forgive us when we ask. In a few moments, we’re going to hear a story of a man who chose to forgive even before the ones who hurt him asked him to forgive them. He chose to release them from the consequences of their wrong against him and chose not to hold a grudge as if it never happened. (Erase the word FORGAVE on the white board.)*

Let’s say our verse together again and then we will do an activity to help us memorize it.

Option 1 - FAMILY IN UNISON

Five large sheets of paper

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

Encourage students 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 group reads it. Switch up the parts of the verse assigned to each group and recite again.

Option: If you don’t have access to a white board, write the verse on a poster and cover each word with a sticky note instead of erasing.

Option 2 - SURF TEAM FAMILY

No supplies needed

Ask students in your surf team to walk around their surf team area in a circle until you call out the word, “family.” Once they hear the word, “family,” the students 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.

Ephesians 4:32

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

(KBC Study Bible, pg. 1289)

Timely Tip

Rewards are an effective way to motivate students. Select a reward system that works for your club. Some reasons to reward students include:

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

Timely Tip

Plan your transition times! “Dead time with students, becomes very alive time extremely fast” is certainly true! Make sure your team has a plan for transitions. Consider securing a timekeeper to help you stay on schedule. Keep supplies ready and make sure leaders know the schedule. Be prepared with a backup transition planned in case a leader is tied up with something. Your timekeeper can help transition to the next activity.

BIBLE CONNECTION

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



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White board, marker, eraser

Set the Stage

Guide students 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.

Tell the Story

Joseph was the youngest in a family of many boys who lived in Canaan. His older brothers all thought that their father, Jacob, liked Joseph the best and their jealousy turned to anger. Especially after Joseph had told his family about two dreams he had and how his family would someday bow down to him.

One day when the brothers were out in the fields taking care of their sheep, they saw Joseph coming in the distance. They got so angry that they put him down into a pit, like a deep well that had no water in it. The brothers really thought about killing him, but Reuben talked them out of it. Instead they sold him for 20 shekels of silver, which would be just a little over \$200 today.

When the brothers got back home, they lied and told their father that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal and their father was very sad.

Joseph was sold again into slavery, this time in Egypt to an officer of Pharaoh, who was the ruler (or king) at the time. All this time, God was taking care of Joseph so that good things would happen!

God blessed Joseph and he became second in command over all of Egypt! That is a pretty important job! For 7 years, his job was to travel all over the land and store up food for times when there wasn't much food. And there came a famine in the land, a time when there wasn't much rain to water the crops and people needed food. So, Joseph opened the storehouses of food that he had been keeping for 7 years.

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

Joseph told them they must bring back their youngest brother from home, but Simon must stay in Egypt until they returned. 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 cried. Why did Joseph cry?

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 lose his son, Benjamin.

As You Prepare

Read Genesis 37-43 as background for this story as you prepare. Summarize in your own words.

Write the word SIN on the white board to use at the end of the story when transitioning into the gospel.

Teaching Tip

Always remember that the Bible is living and active. Be sure to communicate the stories with enthusiasm and a love for the Bible. The students will begin to understand how important the Bible is if you communicate that message as you teach.

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Well, 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. Why do you think he cried this time?

Joseph prepared a test for his brothers to see if they had really changed. Joseph asked his helpers to fill the brothers’ bags with grain and he had them put a silver cup in one of the bags belonging to his brother Benjamin. Later, when they were on their way home, he sent a guard out to stop them. He found the cup they were accused of stealing and brought them back to the palace.

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.

Joseph could no longer keep his secret about who he was. He told everyone to leave the room except his brothers then he told them who he was. The brothers were surprised. What do you think you would say at this point if you were Joseph?

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

Application

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, just as our Memory Link verse says.

Gospel Connection 

This story is a beautiful picture of the love and forgiveness of God. Just like Joseph knew his brothers’ sin, God knows our sins and still offers us forgiveness. Show the white board 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 by telling God that you have sinned and ASK God to forgive you. Tell God how sorry you are for your sin and repent, meaning, choose to turn away from that sin and turn to God. When you ASK... (erase the white board), Jesus forgives you. Next BELIEVE that Jesus is God’s Son and that He paid the price for your sins by dying on the cross. Then CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus and make Him your Forever Friend!

Pray with students.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to talk with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Gospel Tip

Building relationships with students earns trust and gives you the right to be heard. When talking with a student, keep your body language relaxed and open. Use eye contact and really listen to what they have to say. Avoid leading questions and don’t manipulate them to make a decision. When students know that you care, they are more likely to listen to you and trust what you have to say.

SURF TEAM TIME

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



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Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students 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.
- *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 words describe feelings or things that happen when you forgive? (joy, tears, hugs, relief, etc.)*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their Bibles (if they brought one) and highlight today's Memory Link verse.

Hang 10 Pages

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

Let's look at the Weekly Challenge in your Hang 10. You are encouraged to practice forgiving family and friends this week. Do you find it hard to say you're sorry? The key to forgiveness is being willing to say you're sorry when you say or do something that hurts another person.

Pray

Encourage students to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead them in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for your students and these requests during the week.

Father, thank You for forgiving us. Help us to be willing to say we're sorry and help us to forgive others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

Always take time to pray with your group. Not everyone is comfortable praying aloud so be sensitive to those. Your students will learn to pray by listening to you. They will also be blessed by hearing you pray specifically for them by name.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today’s Bible Connection and Character Word



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Option 1 - CONE CATCH

Small plastic cone, bucket/small trash can, three foam balls

Ask Surf Team Leaders to choose two students 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 players. Score one point for each correct answer.

Option 2 - SWAT IT!

Two fly swatters, index cards

PREPARE: 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 students 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? (to pardon or release someone from the consequences of a wrong; does not hold a grudge)*
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’s brothers tell his father when he did not return with them from the fields? (attacked and killed by a wild animal)*
6. *What did Joseph have in Egypt that his brothers needed? (food, grain)*
7. *At the end of the story what did Joseph do for his family? (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 directions to the game you are playing several times so that you are familiar with the steps. It also helps to practice playing games before Beach Club. Give the instructions in your own words. You will be able to avoid pitfalls or confusion that might come up when you play. Remember to HAVE FUN!



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

Ephesians 4:32

KBC Study Bible, page 1289