

**LESSON 6**  
**“FORGIVENESS”**  
(page 1)



**BIBLE CONNECTION**

Matthew 18:21-35  
(KBC Study Bible, page 1051)

**CHARACTER WORD**

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

**TEACHING OBJECTIVE**

Because God has forgiven me, I can forgive others.

**MEMORY LINK**

**Psalm 86:5a**

“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 620)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK**

**GET CONNECTED**

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

**MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY**

Option 1: Index cards, pens  
Option 2: Memory Link cards, balloon

**BIBLE CONNECTION**

Resource item

**SURF TEAM LEADER**

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

**MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME**

Option 1: Sports cone, small balls  
Option 2: None

# Jesus Teaches When to Forgive

## WHAT’S THE POINT?

Do you find it difficult to forgive someone when they hurt you? What if they hurt you over and over again? Does it get easier to forgive after each hurt? No, it’s hard to forgive! Did you know that forgiveness is to pardon or release someone from the consequences of a wrong and does not hold a grudge?

In today’s story, Peter questioned Jesus about when to call it quits and stop forgiving. Peter expected there to be a limit on how many times we must forgive. However, Jesus’ answer was radical. In the Jewish “eye for an eye” culture, Jesus rocks Peter’s world by telling him to never stop forgiving. Matthew 6:14 says, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” God’s forgiveness is generous. He forgives us over and over again. Aren’t you glad that God’s forgiveness never runs out? Psalm 86:5 says, “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”

## GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today’s lesson



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.

- Today’s character word is forgiveness. What does forgiveness mean to you?
- Tell about a time when someone hurt your feelings. How hard was it to forgive that person?
- Tell about a time when you had to ask for forgiveness.
- The Memory Link today tells us that God is faithful. He always forgives us when we tell Him we are sorry. How does that make you feel?



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 hearts toward God



Consider using the song “In Your Power” from Lifeway VBS (Amazing Wonders Aviation). Explain that the best way to live like God wants us to live is through His power. We can forgive others with His help and through His power. Another great song to use for this lesson is “Like Jesus” by Jeff Slaughter. This song says that no one else has been like Jesus. It is a slow worshipful and reflective song.

# MEMORY LINK



2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students  
8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse

## LESSON 6 "FORGIVENESS" (page 2)

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

### Focus on the Bible

Ask students who remembered to bring their Bibles to hold them up high in the air while you count. Let them know you will keep a running total and try to increase the number of Bibles brought every week.

### Psalm 86:5a

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive."

(KBC Study Bible, pg. 620)

### Focus on Today's Memory Link

Today's Memory Link is found on page 620 in your KBC Study Bible in the book of Psalm chapter 86, verse 5a. Who would like to volunteer to read the verse while the others follow along? God wants us to be sorry for our sin, to repent (change our mind about our sin). He is ready to forgive us when we ask. He forgives us so much. We need to forgive others.

**Bible 101**

Show students the "Digging In" titled The Golden Rule at the bottom of page 1033. Read aloud with the students in your surf team. (Allow time to read.) What is The Golden Rule? The answer is found in Matthew 7:12. Ask another student to volunteer to read this verse aloud. Discuss and allow students opportunities to share examples of how to live out this verse at home and at school.

### Option 1 – ORDER UP

Index cards, pens

Assign a word or two of the verse to each student in your surf team and instruct them to write their word(s) on an index card. Ask them to hold their word(s) in front of them and line up with the others in the surf team to put the words in order. Once in order, ask them to say the verse. Then ask the students to switch their card/words(s) with another person and repeat. For an extra challenge, tell them to hide a few of the words and try to say the verse with the words missing.

### Option 2 – OVER & UNDER

Memory Link cards, balloon

Give each student a Memory Link card. Instruct your surf team to stand in a single file line, arm's length behind the student in front of him. Instruct the first student to say the first word of the verse while passing the balloon over his head to the student behind him. Instruct the second student to say the second word as he passes the balloon between his feet to the next student in line. Continue as each student says the next word and they alternate between passing the balloon over and under until the entire verse is recited, including the scripture reference. Continue playing until time is called.

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## BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's Character Word through a gospel-centered Bible story

Four copies of the script Resource Item

### Set the Stage

Jesus used short stories called “parables” to teach a valuable lesson. Often when someone asked Him a question, Jesus would illustrate the answer with a short story to help the listeners understand the spiritual truth. In today's story from Matthew 18:21-35, found on page 1051 in your KBC Study Bible, Peter asked Jesus a question. Listen to the parable, or short story, that Jesus told to help us understand more about forgiveness.

### Tell the Story

Narrator: Peter came to Jesus and said,

Peter: “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

Narrator: Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to 70 times seven.” Then Jesus told a story to illustrate his point. He said, “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.” A servant who owed the king lots of money was brought before him. The servant was not able to pay so the master said,

Master: (pointing to the servant) “You and your whole family will be sold to pay for the debt!”

Narrator: Then the servant fell down before him and said,

Servant 1: (fall down at the Master's feet and beg) “Master, give me some more time and I will pay you all I owe.”

Narrator: The master was moved with compassion and released him and forgave his debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him some money and he grabbed him by the throat and said,

Servant 1: (slowly say with anger in your voice) “Pay me what you owe!”

Narrator: Then the fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him saying,

Servant 2: (falls down in front of Servant 1 and begs) “Give me some more time and I will pay you all I owe.”

Narrator: But the first servant would not give him more time – he went out and threw him in prison. So when the other servants saw what had been done, they told the master all about it. The master called the servant to him and said,

Master: (say with anger as you point to the servant) “You wicked servant! I forgave your debt because you begged me. You should have the same compassion for your fellow servant.”

## LESSON 6 “FORGIVENESS” (page 3)

### As You Prepare

You can always read or tell the story in a dramatic and exciting way. For today's story, consider communicating through drama. Narrate the story and ask your surf team leaders or older clubbers to play/read the parts of Peter, Master, Servant 1 and Servant 2. Give the readers a copy of the script at the beginning of KBC so they have time to look over it before Bible Connection Time.

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Narrator: *The master was angry and sent him to be punished until he could pay his debt. When Jesus ended the story He said, “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”*

Dismiss the actors as you finish the lesson.

**Application**

*So, what was the answer that Jesus gave to Peter? (Forgive seventy times seven) But it wasn’t about the number Jesus gave. He meant that we should forgive over and over and over... as many times as needed. Did Jesus say that we should forgive only if the person deserves it? (No.) We should forgive just like God forgives us – freely. Think quietly about someone you need to forgive. Or maybe you need to ask someone to forgive you. Take a moment and pray silently, asking God to help you with forgiveness.*

**Gospel Connection** 

*Did you know that every one of us has sinned before God? We have chosen our way, not God’s way. Because of that sin, we are separated from God. There is nothing we can do on our own to be united with God again. But there is good news! When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment you and I deserve. Because Jesus took our sin on Himself, we have a chance to be forgiven.*

*Romans 10:9-10 says that “if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation.” Receiving God’s forgiveness is as simple as ABC. ADMIT you are a sinner and ASK Jesus to forgive your sin. Next, BELIEVE that Jesus is Lord and He is God’s Son who came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin and then rose from the dead! Then CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus and make Him the boss of your life.*

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 decision supplis available.

**Gospel Tip**

Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you as you explain the forgiveness found in today’s story. God is faithful and will continue to draw the student to Himself until they understand His offer of forgiveness. It is important that we not rush them into a response to this good news. Our job is simply to tell the message of the gospel and allow the Holy Spirit to work.

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## SURF TEAM TIME

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



## LESSON 6 "FORGIVENESS"

(page 5)

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?*
- *Describe a time when it was hard for you to forgive someone?*

### Use the Bible

Give each student 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, if they brought one, and highlight today's Memory Link.

### 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 students to do the Weekly Challenge and bring back their Hang 10 pages next week for a time of discussion.

*Let's look at Day 4 of the Hang 10. Who would like to read the verse and the Digging In? What stands out to you about Jesus in this section? Let's underline one or two of those in our KBC Bible.*

### Pray

Give the students a few minutes to share their prayer requests or write them on index cards. Ask someone to lead the surf team in prayer. Take the cards home and remember to pray for the students in your surf team this week.

*Thank You, Jesus, for coming to show us that God loves us and wants to freely forgive us when we ask Him. Thank You for showing us how to love others and to forgive. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Connection Tip

Assign each student to a church member. Ask those members, Lifeguards, to pray for that student and write a note to them at least once during that school year. Host a KBC party or reception at church and invite all the KBC students and their families. Invite all the church members who have been praying for them. Connect the students to the members who prayed for them. Allow a time of prayer in person together.

### Teaching Tip

Some kids may be struggling with a specific situation where it is hard to forgive someone. Maybe they are being bullied. Maybe they have a rough situation at home. Be sensitive to them and encourage them to talk with their school counselor.

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# MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME



## LESSON 6 “FORGIVENESS” *(page 6)*

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

### Option 1 – CONE CATCH

Sports cone, small balls

Ask Surf Team Leaders to choose two students from their team to play. One person in the pair holds the cone and the other person tosses the balls. The first pair to land two 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 two different students to play the next round.

### Option 2 – PASS IT ON

No supplies needed

Instruct each surf team to line up single file. On “go,” ask the first student in each line to create an action to pass down the line of his surf team. Each student in that surf team will repeat the action one at a time from front to back. When the action gets to the last person in the back of the line, they must continue the action back to the front of the line. The first surf team to complete their action to the back and front again gets a chance to answer a review question.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is today’s Character Word? (forgiveness)*
2. *How many times did Peter suggest we should forgive someone? (seven times)*
3. *How many times did Jesus tell us to forgive? (seventy times seven, meaning over and over)*
4. *Should you forgive someone when they don’t deserve it? (yes)*
5. *How many times does Jesus forgive us? (over and over)*
6. *Recite our Memory Link. “For You, LORD, are good, and ready to forgive.” Psalm 86:5a*
7. *How can you choose to live out what you learned this week? (I can forgive.)*
8. *Is the book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament? (New)*
9. *What do the letters ABC stand for? (Admit, Believe, Choose to Follow)*
10. *Who did God send to provide forgiveness from sin? (Jesus)*

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are good,  
and ready  
to forgive.”**

Psalm 86:5a



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