

FORGIVENESS

BIG IDEA

Forgiveness is the realization of how much we have been forgiven by Christ. This enables us to forgive the insignificant things that are done to us. It involves not being resentful to others, and ignoring the wrongs that we have received so we can heal relationships by expressing Christ's love.

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

LESSON:

- A continuation of Corrie Ten Boom’s story focusing on Forgiveness.

GAME

- Two coins

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples
- White sand or salt
- Disposable cups
- Sidewalk chalk
- Dark paper
- Pencils
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



FORGIVENESS

LESSON

lesson 15

Last time we got together we heard a true story about a girl named Corrie who was arrested with her family simply because of their heritage and appearance. Corrie showed a lot of courage throughout her life, but even more important is what she learned about forgiveness. Listen to the rest of her story.

After that frightful night when our house was invaded, I was put in prison. We slept in beds filled with fleas, and ate stale bread and thin soup. We were not called by our names but by the numbers that were given to us. My number was 66730. It was tattooed on my arm.

One day a guard took me to a doctor to get medicine for the high fever and cough I had. I was surprised when a nurse asked if there was anything she could get for me. I asked for a Bible. The nurse returned with copies of the four Gospels. I would have been in serious trouble if I had been caught with them, but having a Bible was worth any possible punishment. I shared the Bibles with the other women and even held Bible studies when the guards were out of sight.

The night we were taken to jail was the last time our family was ever together. My father died of pneumonia ten days after being put in prison. My sister, Betsie, who was with me in prison, encouraged me to keep trusting in God and reminded me that "there is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper." Betsie, who forgave her captors, died in prison just three days before I was scheduled for release. The Lord allowed me to survive despite the horrible conditions. After ten long months in the forced labor camp, I was released. Some say I was let out because of an error, but I know God had a plan for my life.

After getting better, I started a home for people who needed help emotionally to recover from the war. I later traveled all over the world telling of God's love and forgiveness. One day I was teaching about forgiveness and I said, "When we confess our sins God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever." Then I saw him, a man who had been a guard in the prison. He came up to me and said, "A fine message...how good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea."

I was suddenly remembering all the pain and suffering my sister and I endured. I remembered him so well, but did he remember me?

"You mentioned a prison in your talk. I was a guard there. But since that time I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Miss, will you forgive me?"

I stood there feeling unable to say anything. I was remembering my family and my grief. It could not have been many seconds that he stood there, hand held out, but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do. I knew I had to do it because God wanted me to, God who had daily forgiven my own sins. I also knew that people who were unable to forgive their former enemies became bitter and remained broken.

I remembered that forgiveness is not a feeling, it's an act. "Jesus help me!" I silently prayed. I thrust my hand into his and an incredible thing took place. A current of feeling raced down my arm and a healing

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warmth flooded my whole being. "I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With my whole heart!"

For a long moment we grasped each other's hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely as I did at that moment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is forgiveness?
2. How was Corrie able to forgive her former prison guard?
3. Why is forgiveness important?
4. What does it mean to be bitter?
5. How can bitterness affect a person's life?
6. Where does the power to forgive come from?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

Shorten the discussion questions at the beginning or end, particularly if the children come from a war-torn country.

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CRAFT

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• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: SAND ART

Kids will use chalk to turn plain sand or salt into colorful grains which will turn into unique works of art.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Pour about 1/2 inch of sand or salt into cup
- Stir a piece of chalk/pastel around and around. The sand or salt will pick up the color of the chalk.
- Draw a simple design with glue on dark paper.
- Sidewalk chalk or pastel chalks
- Sprinkle colored sand/salt onto glue then shake the excess back into the cup.
- Repeat with different colors.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- White sand or salt
- Disposable cups
- Sidewalk chalk or pastel chalks
- Dark paper
- Pencils
- Elmer's type glue

SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Divide kids into groups of 6 with each child coloring a cup of sand to share with the group
- Precut black cardstock into 4 1/4 x 5 1/2 inch pieces

EXAMPLE



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GAME

lesson 15

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: ELECTRIC CURRENT

Race to get the current all the way down the line.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Two coins

DIRECTIONS

- Divide kids up into two lines of equal size
- Place one Mission Team Member at the front of the lines to be the coin flipper.
- Place one Mission Team Member at the back of the lines to be referee. The referee holds a second coin on his open palm within reach of the last person in each line.
- Each line of kids holds hand and closes their eyes.
- The coin flipper flips the coin and shows only the first person in each line.
- When “heads” is thrown the first person in each line squeezes the hand of the next person, who quickly squeezes the next persons hand and so on.
- When the “current” reaches the end of the line the last person grabs the coin from the referee’s palm.
- If heads was flipped and the team successfully grabs the coin that team wins a point.
- If heads was not flipped and a team grabs the coin, a point goes to the other team.

GAME OPTIONS

- *To add more action make several shorter lines and have the last person run to the front of the line before flipping the coin again. A team wins when everyone in line has been in front one time.*



