



MARCH THEME

FIX IT UP

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 18:21-35

Dude, Where's Your Forgiveness? | 77
Times / Unmerciful Servant

BOTTOM LINE

Since God forgave you, you should
forgive others

MEMORY VERSE

“Put up with one another. Forgive one
another if you are holding something
against someone. Forgive just as the
Lord forgave you.”
Colossians 3:13, NIV

LIFE APP

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

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to
be treated, and with God's help...
I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **FORGIVENESS** and God's character, as shown
through God's big story

This WEEK: We finish the month with another one of Jesus' parables in **Matthew 18:21-35**. Jesus tells the story of a servant who likes to live it up—even though he's weighed down by MILLIONS of dollars in debt! This servant gets a big break when the king forgives his debt. You'd think he's got it made—until he finds a man who owes him a few bucks. You'd think he'd pay it forward and cancel the debt, but that's not what happened. He gets caught when he didn't forgive others like the king forgave him.

Bottom Line: **Since God forgave you, you should forgive others.** Forgiveness is full circle. God chose to forgive us when we had a huge debt against God because of our sin. Because we are forgiven of so much, when others hurt us, we should respond with forgiveness in return. We pray that kids will start to realize how, in response to the love they're given by God, they can forgive people in their life.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help kids realize the great forgiveness God has made available to them. Pray that they would fully embrace the love God has offered them and be excited to share it with others.

●● COTTON BALL PICK UP

What You Need: Large bag of cotton balls, 2 craft sticks per kid, empty leader bin

What You Do:

- Hand each group member 2 craft sticks.
- Dump a large pile of cotton balls in the center of your small group table.
- Demonstrate for the kids how to use the craft sticks (like chopsticks) to move the cotton balls from the table to the bin. Count each cotton ball out loud as it goes into the bin. Stop when your group reaches 77 cotton balls.

What You Say: “Wow! You are great picker-uppers and counters! How many cotton balls did we count? Yes! There were 77! That's a lot of cotton balls! *[Sunday Leaders:]* Pay attention to today's Bible story and notice what the number 77 has to do with anything! *[Wednesday Leaders:]* What does the number 77 have to do with our Bible story? *(It's how many times Jesus said we should forgive: which means we should never stop forgiving).*”



●● **FAVORITE TOY**

What You Need: Copy paper, crayons

What You Do:

- Ask kids to draw and color a picture of their favorite toy.
- When they are finished, go around the group and let kids share their pictures and talk about why that toy is their favorite.
- Ask: If somebody broke your favorite toy 77 times would you let them play with it again?

What You Say: “We’ve been talking a lot about the number 77 today. **[Transition]** In Large Group Worship/WoW Family Worship, we are going to learn/we learned what Jesus says we should do 77 (or even more!) times.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● **I’M A BOSS** *(application activity)*

What You Need: Orange construction paper strips, “I’m a Boss” activity cards, tape, glue sticks, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid an orange construction paper strip and an “I’m the Boss” badge.
- Read to them what the badge says and explain that because God forgives us all the time and wants us to forgive others, God will help us do just that! Therefore, we’re all “bosses” at forgiveness!
- Let kids color and decorate their badges and construction paper strips.
- Then help them glue the badge in the center of the construction paper strip.
- Wrap each kid’s strip around his upper arm and secure it with tape.

What You Say: “You guys have been doing such an amazing job at forgiving this month that I think you are officially forgiveness bosses! There is no one as great at forgiving as God, but we can definitely try to love and forgive people like God does. When you are having a hard time forgiving those super tough things that happen, know that **[Bottom Line]** since God forgave you, you should forgive others, and remember the happiness that forgiveness has brought you this whole month!”

●● **LETTING GO** *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: One balloon per child

What You Do:

- Ask kids if anyone has ever let go of a balloon outside and watched it fly into the air. Let them tell a couple of stories if this question causes lots of talking!
- Ask kids if they have seen the movie “Frozen” and if they know the song “Let It Go.” What was Elsa trying to let go of?
- Tell kids that this month’s verse talks about letting go of what someone did to you and forgiving them instead. When we forgive, we let go of the wrong things others do to us.
- Explain that the group is going to say the memory verse while holding their balloons quietly in their hands.
- As you have them repeat Colossians 3:13 after you *(say it sentence by sentence so it’s easy for them to follow you)* encourage everyone



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GRADE PRE

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

to open up their hands and hit their balloon upwards, like they are letting go of being mad at someone and giving the situation to God.

What You Say: “Our verse says to forgive when we are holding onto something. We can let go of things we need to forgive just like we let go of feeling angry! **[Bottom Line] Since God forgave you, you should forgive others** and let it go!”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids that since we’re all going to be “letting go” of the wrong things others have done to us, you’re going to sing “Let It Go” together!
- Sing “Let it Go” with your group. Try to really ham it up and be silly with them! This will make the shyer, quieter kids feel more comfortable belting it out with the group. If you want to, you can download the song on your phone to use for this activity.

What You Say: “God, I thank you so much that we can have fun with you! Even with a silly Frozen song, you remind us to let things go so we can forgive like you do. As we close out our month learning about forgiveness, let us not be done with fully forgiving and loving everyone we meet. Help us to never forget that **[Bottom Line] since God forgave you, you should forgive others.**”

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.

Invite kids to share today’s **[Bottom Line] since God forgave you, you should forgive others** with their parents and encourage them to talk on their way home about one person in each of their lives who they could work harder to forgive.