



SEPTEMBER THEME

**LUNCHROOM**  
Make Space at the Table

**BIBLE STORY**

Colossians 3:13; John 21:1-17  
(John 18:1-27)

Forgive and Let By | Forgive One  
Another

**BOTTOM LINE**

Friends forgive one another

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves at all times. They are  
there to help when trouble comes."  
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**LIFE APP**

**Friendship** | Using your words and  
actions to show others you care

**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 **FRIENDSHIP** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

**This WEEK: Key Question—When a friend hurts you, how do you respond?** When kids are tweenagers, it doesn't take long for best friends to become worst enemies. We hope to guide them through figuring out strategies for how they can respond when they get hurt by a friend. It's inevitable that friends will get into an argument, but when kids are equipped with how to respond, forgiveness might be an easier option for building bridges in the broken relationship.

In **Colossians 3:13**, Paul writes, "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you," (NIV). Towards the end of the book of John we see friendship through **Jesus and Peter**. After denying Jesus three times, Peter was feeling guilty and ashamed. But Jesus still had plans for Peter. Jesus forgave Peter and restored the broken friendship. And when we put our faith in Jesus, Jesus offers that same forgiveness to us. In turn, we can offer forgiveness to others.

**Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another.** While it's true that people will do things that hurt us, we need to be willing to let it go and forgive because God forgave us first.

**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. Pray that they would be prepared to hear what God wants them to hear today. Pray for the kids who tend to hold grudges or dwell on the wrong things others have done to them. Ask God to give kids hearts of forgiveness toward their friends and to recognize when they need to ask their friends' forgiveness themselves.

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**Made to Connect** | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids about what happens when you're playing a game and your partner or teammate messes up.  
—How do you feel?



—How do you think they feel?

—What do you do: yell at them, stop the game entirely, start over again, find someone better to play with, etc.?

• Ask kids if they have ever been let down by a friend before. What was that like?

### •• MINIATURE BASEBALL

*Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Tongue depressors, paper wads, sticky notes, 1 cotton ball per kid

#### **What You Do:**

- Play a game of “Miniature Baseball.” The rules are almost exactly like baseball, but everything is tiny.
- The ball is a paper wad. The bat is a tongue depressor. The bases are sticky notes. Each player gets a cotton ball to represent them.
- There are no “balls;” any miss is a strike.
- To run the bases, players have to move their cotton ball along the base path to the base.
- To get a runner out, the fielders have to blow the “ball” to the base before the batter’s cotton ball gets there, or blow it to hit the batter’s cotton ball.
- When the game is over, discuss how you could get “out” in the game—three strikes or get tagged out.

**What You Say:** “In baseball, you get three strikes and you are out. But in the game of friendship, sometimes you just get one strike and you’re out! **[Transition] But in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to see/we saw that’s not quite how it should work out.**”

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## 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.

### •• FEED ME, PETER [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

*Made to Move: | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bible, 2 leader bins, “Lamb and Sheep” activity page, dice, tape, ping-pong ball, scissors

#### **What You Do:**

- Read John 21:15-17 with the group, or let them recap the story together.
- Cut out the lamb and sheep from the activity page
- Tape a lamb picture to one of the bins.
- Do the same for the other bin, but with the sheep instead.
- Set out the ping-pong ball and dice.
- Tell kids they will take turns rolling the dice.
- Depending on what they roll, they will either 1 = feed the lamb, 2 = feed the sheep, 3 = care for the lamb, or 4 = care for the sheep. If they roll a 5 or 6, they just pass the dice to the next person without doing anything.
- To “feed,” they will toss the ping-pong ball from a short distance away until they get it in a bin.
- To care for, they will run over and pet the lamb or the sheep and sing it a lullaby-type song. *(This will be sure to get some laughs over the silliness of singing to a picture of a lamb/sheep!)*



- Play until each kid has had a turn. Encourage them to “ham it up” and have fun caring for and feeding the animals!

**What You Say:** “When Jesus asked Peter to take care of and feed his lambs, did he literally mean to ask Peter to take care of some farm animals? (*Wait for responses. See if anyone can explain the metaphor and what Jesus actually meant.*) Jesus was saying to Peter, ‘I trust you to take care of something precious.’ Our friends are just as precious to Jesus as Peter was, and one of the best ways to care for them is to forgive them when they do something wrong. And forgiveness doesn’t just mean we say, ‘It’s okay,’ and then stay mad. Forgiveness means we move on and show that friend we trust them again. **[Make It Personal]** (*Talk about a time you restored trust with someone or someone trusted you again after you made a mistake.*) **[Bottom Line]** Friends forgive one another.”

●● **ODDS OF FORGIVENESS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment**

**What You Need:** Six-sided die

**What You Do:**

- Tell the group they’re going to create a story together, one sentence at a time.
- The story will be about an imaginary friend named Peter. (*Or they can make up whatever name they want, as long as it’s not the actual name of someone in your group!*)
- During their turn, each kid will state something that Peter did wrong.  
—For example: “Peter borrowed my pencil and broke it.”
- Then the story passes to the next person who rolls the die.  
—If the person rolls anything except a six, he or she has to repeat all of the previous things that Peter did and then add one.  
—For example: “Peter borrowed my pencil and broke it. Then Peter stepped on my toe.”
- Then the die and the story pass to the next person.
- If someone rolls a six at any point, he repeats all the previous things that Peter did, but then says, “I forgive Peter and don’t have to think about those things anymore.”  
—For example: “Peter borrowed my pencil and broke it. Then Peter stepped on my toe. But I forgave Peter, so I don’t have to think about all those things he did anymore.”
- The next person will start over with a new story about “Peter.”

**What You Say:** “When we don’t forgive our friends it can be exhausting just remembering all the things that they did to make us angry. That’s one reason it’s better to forgive our friends. When someone does something to hurt us, we can’t actually erase what they did from our mind, but if we truly forgive them we free ourselves from having to always think about it and be angry about it. Jesus wants us to extend his forgiveness to others as much for our sake as for theirs. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** friends forgive one another.”

●● **MEMORY VERSE STEW** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**

**What You Need:** “Memory Verse Cards,” “Food Cards,” paper bag

**What You Do:**

- Place the “Memory Verse Cards” and the “Food Cards” in the paper bag.
- Shake the bag to mix up the cards.
- When you say, “Go!” your group will begin picking a card from the bag and passing the bag to the next person in the circle.
- Once three people have picked, put the cards in the approximate spots in verse order, including the “nonsense” food words.  
—Before searching for the rest of the cards, your group must read the verse with the food words in it without laughing, no matter how silly it sounds.  
—After reading the verse with the food words, your group can try again, pulling out three more cards, finding the right words and

