



**SEPTEMBER THEME**



**BIBLE STORY**

**John 18:1-27 + John 21:1-19**  
I'll Be There for You | Jesus and Peter  
**Spark Story Bible, pg. 468-473**  
Jesus is Betrayed

**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

**●● THEME OVERVIEW**

We finish up the month in **John 21:1-19** with an incredible moment between 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.** As families learn about God's incredible forgiveness through Jesus, we pray they start to understand more about how they can forgive others. It's not just accepting an apology and saying it's all right. We pray that families will understand how they can forgive others and work to rebuild broken relationships.

**●● THEME VIDEO**

**What You Do:** Watch this week's video in the comfort of your family's @ home prayer + worship spot. The video can be found on [popmn.org/cm](http://popmn.org/cm) or [facebook.com/popchildrens](https://facebook.com/popchildrens). Then use this Family Guide, GodTime & ParentCue cards, and FAITH5 daily devos to keep the conversation going...

**●● STORY TIME** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

**What You Need:** Bible, Spark Story Bible (*optional*)

**What You Do:**

- Explain that today's Bible Story has 2 parts. The first part tells about a time that one friend did something that hurt another friend. The second part of the story tells about how the friend that was hurt forgave and restored the friendship.
- If you need to refresh your memories, reread the Bible stories listed in the left column. The first story can also be found in the Spark Story Bible, pg. 468-473. Then, review the main points of the stories using the review questions below.

**Review Questions:**

1. True or False: On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter told everyone that Jesus was his best friend. (*False, Peter lied about even knowing Jesus.*)
2. After Jesus died and came back, Peter and his friends got on a boat. What did they do? (*They went fishing.*)
3. After fishing all night, Peter and his friends caught: a) no fish, b) a few fish, or c) a ton of fish? (*A. no fish*)
4. After they were done fishing, they looked on the shore and saw a man standing there but they didn't recognize him at first. Who was it? (*Jesus*)
5. Jesus told them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat. When they did, what happened? (*The net was so full of fish they couldn't get it into the boat!*)

6. What did Peter do when he realized it was Jesus on the shore? (*Put on his coat and jumped out of the boat to walk to the shore.*)
7. When they got to the beach, what did they find? (*Jesus had already started cooking breakfast!*)
8. What did they eat for breakfast: a) pancakes, b) fish and bread, or c) eggs and toast? (*B. fish and bread*)
9. When Jesus told Peter to “feed my lambs” what did he mean: a) feed people who were hungry, b) take care of the people following Jesus, or c) ignore the people around him? (*B. take care of the people following Jesus*)
10. Jesus said, “Follow me.” Did Jesus forgive Peter? (*Yes*)
11. What do you think it means when Jesus says, “Follow me”? (*To love others the way Jesus loves us; to forgive, to show kindness, to put others first*)
12. Today we learned that friends: a) forgive one another, b) ignore each other, or c) get back at one another (*A. forgive one another*)

**What You Say:** “I love these two stories. Peter really messed up. He denied even knowing Jesus, not once, not twice, but how many times? (*pause for answers*) Yes, three times! And Jesus knew this. But he wasn’t angry. Jesus chose to forgive Peter. After they had breakfast together, Jesus asked Peter three times to ‘feed my lambs.’ Jesus wanted Peter to take care of his followers. He still had a BIG job for Peter to do. Jesus forgave Peter because that’s what good friends do.

“I know it can be hard to forgive when a friend says or does something unkind. But when a friend says they’re sorry, we should choose to forgive. Remember, no one is perfect. Sometimes, you might be the one who messes up and says or does something you didn’t mean to do. Jesus tells us to treat others the way we want to be treated...and when Jesus said this he meant not just those we think of as “friends” but EVERYONE. We are called to forgive all people. When we mess up, we want others to forgive us, so let’s do the same! Because **[Bottom Line] friends forgive one another.**”

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

- Tell your family about a time when you messed up and someone chose to forgive you. What did you learn about being a good friend in this situation?
- Ask family members to share a story from their lives about forgiving someone or being forgiven. Does anyone have a story about forgiving or being forgiven by someone they hardly know?

#### •• **FORGIVENESS BAG** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**What You Need:** Paper lunch sack, markers/crayons, paper, scissors

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

- Write this week’s **[Bottom Line] Friends forgive one another** on a paper lunch sack.
- Cut paper into strips.
- Work together as a family to decorate the sack with markers/crayons and/or other craft supplies.
- Explain to your family that this is your “forgiveness bag” for the week.
- When a friend or family member makes you angry or sad, and you don’t want to forgive, instruct your family to write that person’s name on a strip of paper and put it in the bag.
- Then, pray for that friend and ask God to help you forgive.

**What You Say:** “Our forgiveness bag looks great! This week, I can almost guarantee that we will have disagreements with someone. Maybe someone will say something they don’t mean, or push their way in front of you, or leave you out. When these things happen and you get frustrated or angry, I want you to write that person’s name or the situation on one of these strips of paper. Say a prayer and ask God to help you forgive, then put the strip in the bag.

“At the end of the week, we will throw the bag away without looking at the names/situations again. Remember that **[Bottom Line] friends forgive one another**. Instead of holding onto our anger or trying to pay back someone who hurts us, let’s choose forgiveness instead. God will help us forgive. God has shown us how because God always forgives us!”

## ●● FORGIVENESS BRINGS... [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**What You Need:** Bible, paper, crayons/markers/colored pencils

### **What You Do:**

- Give a piece of paper to every member of your family. Set out crayons/markers/colored pencils where everybody can share them.
- Work together to write some of the following words in bubble letters on your papers (*one unique word per person*): healing, peace, calm, happiness, laughter, joy
- Encourage family members to color/decorate their word as you lead them in the following discussions...
  - Look up Proverbs 17:17 or recite it from memory.
  - Ask your family to share what the verse means to them in their own words.
  - As your family continues to decorate their papers, ask them to share about the last time they forgave or the last time someone forgave them. Prompt them to think and tell about how it felt to have their friendship “fixed” through forgiveness.

**What You Say:** “When does a friend love? (*pause*) Yes, at ALL times. What about when a friend hurts us and needs to be forgiven? Should we love them then? (*pause*) Absolutely. A friend loves at all times, and that’s why it’s important to learn to ask for forgiveness when you do something wrong. It’s equally important to learn to forgive those friends who hurt you. When you learn to ask for AND give forgiveness you can experience healing, peace, calm, happiness, laughter, joy—all the words we have been coloring. **[Bottom Line] Friends forgive one another.**” Let’s find a place to display our artwork so we can remember how Jesus forgave Peter and all the great things that forgiveness can bring to our relationships as well.”

## ●● PRAY

**What You Say:** “Let’s pray. Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to be a good friend! Thank you for the story of Peter and how Jesus chose to forgive him. We know that **[Bottom Line] friends forgive one another.** As we write down names on strips of paper this week, please help us follow through and forgive our friends or those people who do things that make us angry and frustrated. Thank you for loving us at ALL times, even when we mess up. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

## ●● ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the **GodTime Card**, **ParentCue Card**, and **FAITH5** at [popmn.org/cm](http://popmn.org/cm). Use them this week to continue the conversation around our bottom line: **[Bottom Line] Friends forgive one another.**

## ●● WHAT’S NEXT

Set a reminder to join us for WOW @home on Wednesday 10/07 at 6:00 pm live at [facebook.com/popchildrens](https://facebook.com/popchildrens) or anytime after that at [popmn.org/youtube](http://popmn.org/youtube) for a time of worship centered around the **[Bottom Line]: Be truthful with your whole life!**