



Jesus Teaches: Forgiveness

Lesson Aim: To know God is happy when we forgive.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Serves

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 5:1-2, 7

What He Has Done: Jesus taught the crowd to forgive.

THE WAY

Bible Memory Verse: "His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Unit 2: The King Who Serves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
7	Jesus Teaches: Forgiveness, Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Jesus taught the crowd to forgive.	To know God is happy when we forgive.
8	Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus taught Nicodemus about salvation.	To know God loves the world.
9	Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:7, 25-26, 28-30, 42	Jesus spoke to the woman at the well.	To know God wants us to tell others about Jesus.
10	Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42	Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.	To know Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.
11	Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10	Jesus came to seek Zacchaeus.	To know Jesus came for you.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 4:16. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You draw us to You and teach us. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might teach the children. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Forgiveness. God loves us enough to forgive us no matter what we do. He wants us to forgive others when they do wrong things to us. Help the children to practice forgiveness in class when they quarrel or are hurt by someone else's actions.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart above the earth
		Coloring Center: God's Love	Banner paper, heart stamps, washable ink pads, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: How Long? How High?	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, rulers
		Block and Car Center: Forgive Everyone	Blocks, cars
		Bubble Center: Forgiving Bubbles	Bubbles, bubble wand
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "Zacchaeus" "Jesus Loves the Little Children"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do You Love Me?" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "His One and Only Son" "I Will Listen" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 7
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 5:7 Visual: Picture of Jesus teaching or a heart, crayon broken in two pieces
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Big Love – Big Hug	Bright-colored sturdy paper, yarn, tape, crayons or markers, optional: heart stickers or other craft decorations
		Game: Forgive Everyone	None
		Game: Pat, Pat, Hug	None
		Snack: Forgiving Hearts	Heart-shaped cookies, pretzels, or other snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 2, Lesson 7
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Matthew 5:1-2, 7	None
	Up to 10	Game: His Love Endures Forever	Beach ball or other soft ball for tossing
	Up to 10	Game: Circle of Love	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about forgiving others

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart above the earth. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a heart help you remember Jesus wants us to forgive everyone.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: GOD'S LOVE

SUPPLIES

Banner paper, heart stampers, washable ink pads, crayons or markers

DO

Children decorate the banner paper with hearts while talking about the Bible Memory Verse.

TALK ABOUT

We have a new Bible Memory Verse today. Psalm 100:5 says, "His love endures forever." That means God's love never, never ends. He will love us forever. God wants us to love the people around us. How can you show others you love them? (Give a hug or a pat on the back, say "I love you," give them a gift, help them, etc.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: HOW LONG? HOW HIGH?

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, rulers

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about God's love. Encourage children to make things they can measure with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Do you know how much God loves you? Our Bible Memory Verse song today tells us God's love is so wide, so long, so high, and so deep that we could never measure it. Let's make some things we can measure.

- Make something with the play-dough that is shorter than the ruler.
- Make something with the play-dough that is longer than the ruler.
- Compare two items the children have made with the play-dough. Which one is longer or taller?

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK AND CAR CENTER: FORGIVE EVERYONE

SUPPLIES

Blocks, cars

DO

Children play with the blocks and cars as they learn about forgiveness.

TALK ABOUT

I'm so glad you are all playing well together. Has anyone ever knocked over a tower you've built or taken a car you wanted? (Children respond.) **How does that make you feel?** (Children respond.) **What do we need to do if the person who made us sad or angry says they are sorry?** (Say, "I forgive you.") **To forgive means to no longer be angry with someone who has made you sad or angry. Jesus loves us so much He forgives us no matter what bad things we've done. He wants us to forgive others for the bad things they've done, too.**

BUBBLE CENTER: FORGIVING BUBBLES

SUPPLIES

Bubbles, bubble wand

DO

Blow bubbles. Allow children to pop the bubbles while together you say, "God forgives" and then "Forgive everyone."

TALK ABOUT

God loves and forgives us, no matter what wrong things we do. Let's blow some bubbles. When you pop a bubble, together let's say, "God forgives." Play several times before continuing. **Jesus wants us to forgive everyone the way He forgives us. Now, when we pop a bubble, together let's say, "Forgive everyone."**

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"His
love
endures forever."
Psalm 100:5**

The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to Jesus, our King, who serves by giving us what we need. Let's talk to Jesus and thank Him for caring for us. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, thank You for caring for our needs. Help us to forgive others as You have forgiven us. Amen.**



How wide can you spread your arms? (All spread arms.) **How long can you stretch your arms in front of you?** (All reach arms forward.) **How high can you reach?** (All reach high.) **How deep can you bend?** (All squat down low.) **Jesus' love is so wide and long and high and deep that we could never measure it. Let's do those motions as we sing our new Bible Memory Verse Song.** Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?"

God's love for us endures forever. As we collect our offering, let's sing and tell God how much we love Him. Play: "Do You Love Me?" as background music while collecting offering.



Our Bible Memory Verse is found in Psalm 100:5, "His love endures forever." That means Jesus will always love us. Let's say our verse together with the motions.

"His
love
endures forever."
Psalm 100:5

The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



In today's story, Jesus taught the people about forgiveness. To forgive is to no longer be angry with someone for the wrong thing he or she did. Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about forgiveness. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 7.



When you love Jesus, He forgives you, no matter what you have done. He forgives everyone who loves Him. Sing: "Everyone Who Calls."



Forgive everyone

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 5:7, picture of Jesus teaching or a heart, crayon broken in two pieces

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Today, we will hear how Jesus taught a crowd of people to forgive. Forgive is a big word. Can you say it with me? Lead the children in saying, "Forgive." **To forgive means to no longer be angry when someone makes us sad or angry.**

Show the broken crayon. **Today, I have a broken crayon. The person who broke this crayon, didn't mean to break it. It was an accident. Do you think we can forgive them for breaking the crayon?** (Yes.) **Jesus tells us God is happy when we forgive.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 5:7.



WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 5:1-2, 7

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of Jesus teaching or a heart from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jesus went up on the mountainside,**
- **And He sat right down.**
- **This is what He taught the crowd,**
- **That gathered all around.**

- **"When you show forgiveness,**
- **In all you say and do,**
- **You'll be happy because you'll see,**
- **God will forgive you, too!"**

What did Jesus teach the people? (To forgive.) **Who is happy when we forgive?** (God.)



We forgive **THE WAY**

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BIG LOVE—BIG HUG

Purpose: To challenge children to show the love of Christ through kindness and forgiveness.

Supplies: Bright-colored sturdy paper, yarn, tape, crayons or markers, optional: heart stickers or other craft decorations

Prepare: Create an envelope using a sheet of brightly-colored sturdy standard-size paper. Fold the paper in half, leaving just enough at the top to fold over for a flap. Tape or glue the sides closed. On the front, write:

Stretch my hands wide to show Jesus' love.

Wrap my arms around you to feel my hug!

Cut two child-size handprints from brightly-colored sturdy paper or you may choose to trace and cut out each child's handprints as they arrive.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. When considering craft decorations for this age, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

Directions:

1. Child uses crayons, markers, stickers, or other craft decorations to decorate the envelope and two handprints.
2. Child stretches his or her arms as wide as possible. Teacher measures and cuts a piece of yarn to match the distance from fingertip to fingertip of the child's outstretched arms.
3. Attach a handprint to each end of the yarn with tape.
4. Child places the handprints connected with yarn into the envelope.

Craft Discussion:

- **When you forgive others, you show them how big Jesus' love is. Who does Jesus want us to forgive?** (Friends, brothers, sisters, parents, everyone.)
- **Our Forgive Everyone Heart Craft reminds us Jesus wants us to "forgive everyone."**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: FORGIVE EVERYONE

Purpose: Children learn to share God's love by forgiving others.

Supplies: None

Jesus sat down on the mountainside and taught the crowd to forgive. To forgive is to no longer be angry with someone who makes you sad. Jesus said when we forgive, we are happy because we see God's forgiveness.

Directions:

1. Children stand or sit in a circle.
2. **Let's see how far apart you can spread your arms.** Children stretch their arms wide. **Wider! The love of Jesus is even bigger than that! When you forgive others, you show them how big Jesus' love is. Let's share a rhyme about forgiveness.**
3. Say the poem below while leading the children in the motions.

Stretch my hands wide to show Jesus' love.	Stretch arms wide.
Wrap my arms around you to feel my hug!	Hug yourself.
Let's show Jesus' love in the way we live.	Point up.
God is happy when we forgive!	Point to your smile.
4. Repeat poem a few times. See if children can fill in the last word of each line.

GAME: PAT, PAT, HUG

Purpose: In this version of the traditional game of "Duck, Duck, Goose," children enjoy showing forgiveness.

Supplies: None

What does it mean to forgive someone? (Children respond.) **To forgive is to no longer be angry with someone makes you sad. What are some ways we can show others we forgive them?** (Give a hug, pat on the back, say "I forgive you," give a gift, etc.) **In this game, we are going to practice one fun way of showing forgiveness.**

Directions:

1. Seat all children in a circle.
2. Choose a child to be the "Forgiver."
3. The "Forgiver" walks around the circle, gently patting each child on the shoulder and saying "pat."
4. When the "Forgiver" says "hug," direct the "Forgiver" and the child who was just touched to run in *opposite directions* around the circle.
5. When the two running children meet, encourage them to give each other a big hug.
6. Choose the next "Forgiver" and play until each child has had a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FORGIVING HEARTS

Purpose: Children enjoy a heart-shaped snack as they discuss forgiving everyone.

Snack Suggestion: Heart-shaped cookies, pretzels, or other snack

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **When we are sorry for hurting someone, what do we say to that person?** ("I am sorry. Please forgive me.")
 - **When someone does something to hurt us, how can you show you forgive them.** (Say "I forgive you," hug, pat, smile, give a gift, etc.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5	The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice. (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest. Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end). Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MATTHEW 5:1-2, 7

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jesus went up on the mountainside,** (Walk in place.)
- **And He sat right down.** (Sit down.)
- **This is what He taught the crowd,** (Point finger, as if teaching.)
- **That gathered all around.** (Point to everyone in the room.)

- **"When you show forgiveness,** (Left hand brushes off right palm.)
- **In all you say and do,** (Open arms wide.)
- **You'll be happy because you'll see,** (Smile and point to eyes.)
- **God will forgive you, too!"** (Point to heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

GAME: HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

Purpose: Children move a sheet to discover the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Beach ball or other soft ball for tossing

Paul was one of Jesus' followers. He prayed that those who loved Jesus would know "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18). Our Bible Memory Verse tells us "His love endures forever." That means it never ends. Let's see how big Jesus' love is.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle. Toss the ball to one of the children.
2. **Jesus' love is wider than** child make a suggestion (e.g. a house, the ocean). Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
3. Toss the ball to another child. **Jesus' love is longer than** child make a suggestion (e.g. my arms, a river). Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
4. Toss the ball to another child. **Jesus' love is higher than** child make a suggestion (e.g. a mountain, a skyscraper). Lead all the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
5. Toss the ball to another child. **Jesus' love is deeper than** child make a suggestion (e.g. the ocean, the deepest hole). Lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse, **"His love endures forever."**
6. Repeat until each child has a turn making a suggestion.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: CIRCLE OF LOVE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse and Ephesians 3:18.

Supplies: None

Teacher's Tip: In this game, children will be learning the two Bible Memory Verses that are in the Bible Memory Verse Song and are being learned by ages 4-5.

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" Ephesians 3:18

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Can you show me how big Jesus' love is? Encourage children to stretch their arms wide and high to show the size of Jesus' love. **Our Bible Memory Verse tells us Jesus' love lasts forever!**

Directions:

1. Form a circle and hold hands.
2. Say the Bible Memory Verse together while doing the corresponding actions:

"How wide and long	Stretch circle outward.
and high	Hold each other's hands high to sky.
and deep	Hold each other's hands low to ground.
is the love of Christ."	Let go of hands and hug arms over chest.
"His love endures forever."	Hold hands again and walk in a circle.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about forgiving others.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 7: Jesus Teaches: Forgiveness

PONDER! Jesus taught the people on the mountainside (Matthew 5:1-2, 7). What did Jesus teach the people to do? (To forgive.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for forgiving us. Please help us to forgive everyone. Amen."

PLAY! Sit down with friends or family on a small hill outdoors or on sturdy boxes. Pretend you are sitting on a mountainside, as Jesus did, teaching about forgiveness. Read the Bible story together.

UNIT 2 BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"His	The open right hand, facing forward, moves outward twice.
love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
endures forever."	Use index finger to make circles in the air (circles have no end).
Psalm 100:5	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.