



# A Letter About Forgiving Others

Lesson Aim: To know we are to forgive others.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The Spirit Who Guides Us

## THE WORD

**New Testament Letters:** Ephesians 4:32

**What He Has Done:** God led Paul to write about forgiving others.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
22	A Letter About Love, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	To learn to love one another.
23	A Letter About Helping Others, Galatians 6:10	God led Paul to write about helping others.	To love all people by doing good deeds.
24	A Letter About Forgiveness of Sins, 1 John 1:8-9	God led John to write about the forgiveness of sins.	To know we all have done wrong and if we admit our wrongdoing to Jesus, He always forgives us.
25	A Letter About Forgiving Others, Ephesians 4:32	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know we are to forgive others.
26	A Letter About Prayer, Philippians 4:4-6	God led Paul to write about having peace of mind.	To know we can pray to God when we are worried.
27	A Letter About Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus, Hebrews 12:1-3	God led the writer of Hebrews to write about focusing on Jesus.	To think of Jesus in all we say and do.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Luke 6:35-42. Please join us in praying, "Lord, thank You for the great sacrifice You made to save us and secure the forgiveness of all our sins. Help the children forgive others as You have forgiven them. Amen."

## TEACHER'S TIP

**Forgive each other.** When someone is unkind, we can show love by letting go and forgiving that person for what he or she did. Forgiving others is a tough lesson at any age. During class, if children are unkind to each other, use the opportunity to talk about forgiveness. Encourage them to ask for forgiveness and to forgive.

Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature various letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the letter in a mailbox known as the "Special Delivery Mailbox." See THE WORD for more details.

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Mailbox, stamp or sticker of a two smiley faces
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Forgiving Others	Coloring pages of two children where one of the children is sad, crayons
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> Forgiveness	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Puppet Center:</b> Forgiving Puppets	4 people puppets, optional: "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" craft stick (used in Lesson 24)
		<b>Letter Games</b>	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.  <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "How Great Is Our God" "Jesus Loves Me"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "With God All Things Are Possible" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Guide Me" "I Will Listen" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 25
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Ephesians 4:32	Visuals: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, pillow
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Forgiveness Cross	Paper plate, sturdy white and colored paper, label, tape, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Forgive Each Other	None
		<b>Game:</b> Happy Hugs	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible"
		<b>Snack:</b> Smiling Faces Snack	Raisins or mini-candies
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 25
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Games:</b> Letter Games	Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Circle Verse	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Bible Memory Verse Hop	Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about forgiving others

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who guides us

# THE WELCOME

## WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** Child opens the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of two smiley faces. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of two smiley faces help you remember to forgive each other as God has forgiven you.**

**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: FORGIVING OTHERS

### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of two children where one of the children is sad, crayons

### **DO**

Children color as they talk about forgiving others.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Sometimes people do things that make us sad or angry. What do you think happened to the children in this picture?** (Children respond.) **Why do you think this child** (point to the sad child) **is sad?** (Children respond.) **What do you think she (or he) should do?** For each answer the children give, ask them if that would be a right choice or a wrong choice. **We can share Jesus' love by forgiving others when they do wrong against us.**

## PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: FORGIVENESS

### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while discussing forgiveness. Encourage children to make hearts, smiley faces, or two friends with the play-dough.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Last week, we talked about how God forgives us when we sin (things we do or say that are wrong in God's eyes). God wants us to forgive others just as He forgives us. When someone is unkind to us, it's not always easy to forgive, but with God all things are possible. Have you ever forgiven someone for doing wrong to you?** (Children respond.) **How do you feel after you forgive someone?** (Children respond.)

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## **PUPPET CENTER: FORGIVING PUPPETS**

### **SUPPLIES**

4 people puppets, optional: "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" craft stick (used in Lesson 24)

For the "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" craft stick, draw a happy face on a small paper plate and a sad face on second small paper plate. Attach the plates to either side of a large craft stick.

### **DO**

Children use the puppets to role play situations where someone is unkind. For each situation, have children act out a wrong choice and then act out a right choice. Optional: Use the "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" craft stick to signal when the children should act out a right or wrong choice. Some examples may include:

- Zachary wants to play with Roger's toy so he takes it from Roger.
- Abby doesn't pick up her toys when her Mom asks her to.
- Ethan breaks one of Lilly's crayons.
- Charlotte makes fun of Sophie's new shoes.
- Carter says unkind words to James.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**When someone is unkind to us, we can show love by letting go and forgiving that person for what he or she did. How can we show someone we forgive them?** (Children respond.)

## **LETTER GAMES**

### **SUPPLIES**

Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

### **DO**

Play one of the Letter Games listed in GOT TIME?

### **TALK ABOUT**

Use the letter games to help children understand the letters we are learning are found in the Bible and are God's letters to us.

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## **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](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"With God</b>	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>all things</b>	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.
<b>are possible."</b>	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
<b>Matthew 19:26b</b>	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.



# The Spirit who guides us

## 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.



**When someone is unkind to us, we can show love by letting go and forgiving that person for what he or she did. Forgiving others is not always easy, but we know with God all things are possible. Let's pray and ask Him to help us forgive.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for forgiving us when we do wrong things. Help us to forgive others just as You have forgiven us. Amen.**



**Let's sing about Jesus' love for us.** Sing: "Jesus Loves Me" or "The Lord Is Faithful."

**Because we know God loves and forgives us, we can love and forgive each other.** Sing: "Love One Another" as the offering is collected.



**Let's see if Posty has a letter for us today.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 25.



**It's not always easy to forgive, but who can help us? (God.) That's right. We know that with God all things are possible. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.** Practice several times.

**"With God**

(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**all things**

(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.

**are possible."**

(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.

**Matthew 19:26b**

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible."



Paul's letter about forgiving each other

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, small pillow

**Prepare:** Today's New Testament letter is available at ResourceWell.org or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible in the mailbox used for THE WELCOME.

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

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	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.

Choose two children (preferably ones you know are friends) to stand next to you. Give the pillow to one of the children. **I want you to hold this pillow and squeeze it as tight as you can. Don't let go. Now, I want you to give name of the other child a hug without letting go of the pillow. You can't give him/her a hug, can you? The pillow is in the way. This time, let go of the pillow and give name of the other child a hug.** Children hug. **The pillow got between you and your friend, didn't it?** (Child responds.) The two children may sit down.

**Sometimes when someone is unkind to us, we might hold onto our sad or angry feelings just like name of first child held onto the pillow.** Hold the pillow in front of you. **If you let go of your sad or angry feelings, and forgive the person, you show them love.** Drop the pillow. **God wants us to forgive others, just as He forgives us when we do wrong.**

**Today, we will read a letter Paul wrote about forgiving each other. Who would like to open the Special Delivery Mailbox for this week's letter?** Choose a child to open the mailbox, remove the Bible, and hand it to you. **We can find it in Ephesians 4:32.** Read the letter.



Dear brothers and sisters in the family of God,

Be kind to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you.

Love,  
Paul

**Who forgave us? (God.) Who should we forgive? (Each other.)**



Forgiving each other

## 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: FORGIVENESS CROSS**

**Purpose:** To remind the children to forgive each other.

**Supplies:** Paper plate, sturdy white and colored paper, label, paper fastener, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On sturdy white paper, print a picture of two children arguing. From sturdy colored paper, cut a circle that fits inside the rim of the paper plate. Cut a large wedge out of the circle. (Do not cut all the way to the middle of the paper circle because you will need to insert the paper fastener into the center.) Punch a hole in the center of the paper circle and in the center of the paper plate. On a label, print:

**Forgive each other.**

**Ephesians 4:32**

**Optional:** Instead of using a paper circle and paper fastener, cut a half circle and tape it in the middle of the paper plate. For step 5, have children flip the half circle to the left to cover the picture of the children and draw the cross on that side of the half circle.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the paper plate.
2. Color the picture of the children saying unkind words to each other. **This picture shows children being unkind to each other. What should they do?** ("Forgive each other.")
3. Attach the picture of the children on the left side of the paper plate and the label on the right side of the paper plate.
4. Attach the paper circle to the paper plate with the paper fastener.
5. Draw a cross on the paper circle.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who forgives you? (God.) God wants us to forgive each other just as He forgives us.**
- Children move the paper circle so they can see the picture of the children. **The children in the picture are being unkind to each other.**
- **Now, imagine they forgive each other and cover the picture with the cross to cover their wrongdoing.** Children move the paper circle so the cross covers the picture.
- **God forgives you! God can help you forgive each other!**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: FORGIVE EACH OTHER**

**Purpose:** Children will consider various situations requiring forgiveness.

**Supplies:** None

**God wants us to forgive each other in the same way that He forgives us. In this game, the best answer is always "Forgive each other." If I say, "Jimmy broke Phillip's toy plane. What should Phillip do next?" I want you to jump up and say, "Forgive each other."**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Begin the game by having the children squat down.
3. Read the situation below. (Change names as needed to avoid using the names of the children in the room.)
  - **Jason hit Mark on purpose, then Mark hit Jason. What should they do next?**
4. Lead the children in jumping up and saying, **"Forgive each other!"**
5. Children squat down again.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 using the situations below.
  - **Michael found out Meagan lied to him. What should Michael do next?**
  - **Maria pushed in front of Annabelle in the line. What should Annabelle do next?**
  - **Amanda teased Susan. What should Susan do next?**
  - **Brian took Sarah's doll away from her. What should Sarah do next?**
  - **Elena said mean words to Roberto on purpose. What should Roberto do next?**
7. You can continue play by suggesting similar situations children often struggle with at their age.

## **GAME: HAPPY HUGS**

**Purpose:** Children are reminded that a hug of friendship can follow forgiveness.

**Supplies:** Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible"

**Sometimes, it is hard to forgive. Have you ever had a time when you didn't want to forgive someone? (Children respond.) You can ask God to help you and He will, because with God all things are possible. When you have forgiven someone, you might hug each other as a sign of friendship. In this game, we will celebrate our friendships and dance to our Bible Memory Verse Song. Every time the music stops, I want you to find a different friend to hug. Ready?**

### **Directions:**

1. Play or sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible."
2. Children dance to the music.
3. After a short time, stop the music. Children find a friend to hug. Encourage them to hug a different child each time.
4. Continue starting and stopping the music until the song is done.
5. If time allows, play again. This time, have children shake hands or give each other a high five as a sign of friendship.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: SMILING FACES SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children will make a happy face from their snack as they discuss forgiving others.

**Snack Suggestion:** Raisins or mini-candies

### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another 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. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Use your snack to make a smiling face! We are happy when we forgive each other.**
  - **Have you ever forgiven someone for doing wrong to you?** (Children respond.)
  - **How do you feel after you forgive someone?** (Children respond.)



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.

**"With God**

(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**all things**

(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.

**are possible."**

(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.

**Matthew 19:26b**

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

### **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?**

### **GAME: LETTER GAME #1**

**Purpose:** Children play a hiding game using today's New Testament letter.

**Supplies:** Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter laying on top. **God helped a man named John write a letter about love. We find it in the Bible. The letter guides us in how to love one another. Let's play a game of hiding the letter. When we find it, we will read the letter together.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose a child to hide the letter in the envelope.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding the letter.
3. On your signal, the other children open their eyes and search for the letter.
4. The child who finds the letter opens the envelope and hands the letter to you.
5. Read today's letter to the children and put it back in the envelope.
6. Choose a different child to hide the letter and play again.

### **GAME: LETTER GAME #2**

**Purpose:** Children play a variation of Duck, Duck, Goose using today's New Testament letter.

**Supplies:** Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter lying on top. **God led John to write a letter to people about love. That special letter was delivered to us through the Bible. Let's practice delivering special letters by playing, "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"**

#### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Pick a child to be the Mail Deliverer.
3. The Mail Deliverer walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child once on the shoulder with the letter while repeating **"No Mail"** with each tap.
4. When the Mail Deliverer says **"Mail!"** and drops the letter in a child's lap, that child grabs the letter, jumps up, and runs around the circle chasing the Mail Deliverer.
  - If the Mail Deliverer runs all the way around the circle and sits in the spot where the child with the letter was sitting, then the child with the letter takes a turn as the Mail Deliverer.
  - If the child with the letter tags the Mail Deliverer, then that child returns to his or her place in the circle and the Mail Deliverer tries again to deliver the letter without being tagged.
5. Play until each child has a turn as the Mail Deliverer.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b

### **GAME: CIRCLE VERSE**

**Purpose:** To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

**"With God all things are possible." That's our Bible Memory Verse. Let's add the sign language and pass the good news around the circle.**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Teach the hand motions as you say the verse:

<b>"With God</b>	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>all things</b>	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around it comes back to touch the palm of the hand.
<b>are possible."</b>	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
3. Turn to the child on your left and say the Bible Memory Verse with the sign language.
4. That child turns to the child on his or her left and says the Bible Memory Verse with the sign language.
5. When the message has made its way around the whole circle, lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse together with the motions and cheer.

### **GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE HOP**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Bible

**Let's review our Bible Memory Verse. After I say each word, repeat it and take one hop toward me. When you get close enough to touch the Bible I'm holding, you may sit.**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. If you have a large class, divide them into groups, and have the groups take turns playing.
2. Stand at the opposite end of the room, holding an open Bible.
3. Say each word of the Bible Memory Verse, one at a time. As the children repeat each word, they take one hop toward you.
4. When each child is close enough, he or she touches the Bible and sits down.
5. Continue until each child has touched the Bible, repeating the Bible Memory Verse from the beginning as needed.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## 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 5, Lesson 25: A Letter About Forgiving Others

**PONDER!** God wants us to forgive each other as He forgave us (Ephesians 4:32). Who will help you when it's hard to forgive someone? (God will!)

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord Jesus, thank You for making a way so we can be forgiven. Help us to forgive each other as You have forgiven us. Amen."

**PLAY!** Play "Happy Hugs." When we forgive someone we can hug each other as a sign of forgiveness. Play music or sing while you dance to the music with friends or family. When the music stops, find someone to hug.

#### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"With God**

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**Matthew 19:26b**

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.