



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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Forgive each other."

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 Tips: Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature 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 symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Mailbox	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of two smiley faces
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Forgive each other."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "With God All Things Are Possible" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The New Testament Overture" (Ages 6-12 BMVS) "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 25
THE WORD	Up to 10	Special Delivery: Ephesians 4:32	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, mailbag or tote bag, picture of a smiley face
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Forgiveness Cross	Paper plate, sturdy white and colored paper, label, paper fastener, crayons or markers
		Game: Forgive Each Other	None
		Game: Happy Hugs	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible"
		Snack: Smiling Faces Snack	Raisins or mini-candies
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 25 Color This Story: "A Letter from Paul About Forgiving Others." (Picture of two smiling faces)
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Game: Letter Games	Today's New Testament letter in an envelope
	Up to 10	Game: Collect the Letters	"The New Testament Overture" Song, 27 sheets of paper or sealed envelopes, Bible
	Up to 10	Game: Circle Verse	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Hop	Bible
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about forgiving others

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Forgive each other

THE 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 unlocks 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "Forgive each other."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Forgive each other."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| "Forgive" | In a downward, sweeping motion, the left hand brushes off the upturned palm of the right hand. |
| "each other." | Extended thumbs ("A" hand shape) circle one another to show that they are in close proximity. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Forgive each other," Ephesians 4:32. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP

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 the Holy Spirit who guides us. He guides us to forgive each other. To forgive others is to not count their wrongdoings against them.

Today's Whisper Verse is “Forgive each other.” Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “Forgive each other.” Include sign language.



God forgives us, and we are to forgive others as He forgives us. Sometimes, it can be difficult to forgive others, but with God's help we can do it. With God all things are possible! As we collect the offering today, let's sing about that! Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, “With God All Things Are Possible,” as the offering is collected.

Jesus gave His life so you would be forgiven; you are that important to Him. He loves you very much. Sing: “Jesus Loves Me” or “Everyone Who Calls.”

We can share His love by forgiving others when they do wrong against us. Sing: “Love One Another.”



Let's see if Posty knows anything about the letter from Paul about forgiving others. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 25.



Because we know God loves and forgives us, we can love and forgive each other. Sing: “We Love.”



Paul's letter about forgiving each other

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;

My mouth quiet as can be,

I will listen to hear,

How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

In the Bible, there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. Last time, we learned from one of John's letters that God always forgives us when we admit our wrongdoings to Him. Today, we will read a letter Paul wrote about forgiving each other.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: EPHESIANS 4:32

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 and a picture of a smiley face in a mailbag or tote bag (Special Delivery Mailbag).

Let's open the Special Delivery Mailbag to read this week's letter from the Bible. Choose a child to open the mailbag, remove the Bible, and hand it to the leader or teacher. Read the letter.



Dear brothers and sisters in the family of God,

Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.

**Love,
Paul**

Who forgave us? (God.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible. Read answer from today's New Testament letter.

God forgave us. Who should we forgive? (Each other.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Forgive each other." Include sign language or hand motions.

PASS THE SMILING FACE: Ask the question below and then give the picture of the smiley face to a child who has raised his or her hand. The child holding the smiley face gets to give his or her answer, and then gives it to another child whose hand is raised to answer the question.

Would any of you like to tell us about a time when you forgave someone for doing wrong to you? (Children respond.)



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.") Include sign language or hand motions.
3. Attach the picture of the children on the left side of the paper plate and the **"Forgive each other." Ephesians 4:32** 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. That's like our Whisper Verse. Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- Children turn 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 turn the cross to cover their wrongdoing.** Children turn 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 our Whisper Verse, "Forgive each other." Review Whisper Verse with sign language or hand motions. If I say, "Jimmy broke Phillip's toy plane. What should Phillip do next?" I want you to say, "Forgive each other." Include the hand motions or sign language.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Read one of the situations from the list below or create your own list. (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?**
 - **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?**
3. Ask one of the children what he or she thinks should happen next.
4. Each child answers, **"Forgive each other"** with the hand motions or sign language.
5. Lead the children in suggesting more situations where forgiveness is needed. Choose similar situations that children often struggle with at their age.
6. Play until each child has a turn.

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 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.
 - **Use your snack to make a smiling face! We are happy when we forgive each other.**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "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.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Forgiveness Cross" craft. Use it to show your family what it means to forgive others.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about forgiving each other.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "A Letter from Paul about Forgiving Others." For today's Color This Story, use a picture of two smiling faces. Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible," as the children color.



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

Directions:

1. Choose a child to hide the letter.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding today's New Testament letter in the play area.
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

Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of the Jesus' friends. Isn't it wonderful to know that same letter was delivered to us through the Bible? (Children respond.) To practice delivering special letters, let's play "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"

Directions:

1. Children sit 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...*

GAME: COLLECT THE LETTERS

Purpose: To familiarize children with the concept that the New Testament contains stories about Jesus and many letters from those who believe in Him.

Supplies: "The New Testament Overture" song, 27 sheets of paper or sealed envelopes, Bible

Prep Steps: Fold each sheet of paper in half to look like a letter. Scatter the letters (or envelopes) around the play area.

Optional: Write the name of one of the New Testament books of the Bible on each of the sheets of paper or envelopes.

Hold up the Bible. **God gave us the Bible. The first part of the Bible is filled with true stories about God and His people. The second part of the Bible is filled with true stories about Jesus and letters from some of His followers. Let's see if we can pick up all the Bible letters before the music stops!**

Directions:

1. Place the Bible on a table or chair in the center of the play area.
2. Play "The New Testament Overture."
3. Children collect the letters as fast as they can and stack them on top of the Bible.
4. After the letters are stacked, have the children hold hands and form a circle around the Bible.
5. Skip or move in a circle until the song is done.



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 hand motions 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:
 "With God" (Point to heaven.)
 "all things" (Stretch arms in a wide circle.)
 "are possible." (Thumbs up motion.)
3. Turn to the child on your left and say the Bible Memory Verse with the hand motions.
4. That child turns to the child on his or her left and says the Bible Memory Verse with the hand motions.
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.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

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.



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! Read Ephesians 4:32 with your family. In Paul's letter, he tells us to forgive each other as God forgave us. Have you ever forgiven someone for doing wrong against you? How did you feel after you forgave him or her? Sometimes, it is hard to forgive each other. God can help you do that!

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! "The Hugging Game." Sometimes after we forgive each other, we hug to show our love. In this game, you can practice your hugs! Play a favorite song while everyone walks around the room. Choose one person to stop and start the music. When he or she stops the music, everyone finds someone to hug. Take turns stopping and starting the music.

Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse:

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