



Camp Venture Counselor's Guide: Ages 6-12
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation
Unit 5, Lesson 25

Letters About Forgiving Others

Lesson Aim: To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

New Testament Letters: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5

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

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
 knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
22	Letters About Love, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:11-12	God led Paul and John to write about love.	To understand love as it is explained in the Bible.
23	Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27	God led Paul to write about unity.	To learn that the body of Christ is made of different parts uniting to serve and point others to Jesus.
24	Letters About Forgiveness of Sin, Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23	God led Paul and John to each write about forgiveness of sins.	To know we are all sinners and that through Christ we are forgiven and rescued from the punishment for sin.
25	Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.
26	Letters About Peace, Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about peace of mind.	To know God can give us peace of mind in all circumstances.
27	Letters About Perseverance, Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus.	To know that keeping our focus on Jesus will strengthen us to never give up.

COUNSELOR'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.”

WHAT IS CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the Prophets & Promises Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc.

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 25	Camp Games: Lots of Forgiveness	Non-helium balloons
THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: “Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock” Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: “Praise the Lord, O My Soul” “The New Testament Overture” “Where the Spirit of the Lord Is” Additional Hymn Suggestion: “I Love You, Lord” “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”
		Worship Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:32	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 25 Bible Barn script or storybook
THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME	Up to 5	New Testament Letters: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5	Bibles
	Up to 10	Pen Pal Letter	Mailbag, Scripture reference list, Bible, Pen Pal Letter, blank sheet of paper, small pebble, tape
	Up to 5	Share a Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	New Testament Postcards, cross stamps or stickers, Daily Ways and basket or W ³ s for the older children, Letters from Camp (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song “Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock”
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Hearts Of Forgiveness	Any heart-shaped snack
	Up to 10	Game: Goodbye Grumpy Grudge	Dry erase board, eraser, and markers (or large paper, eraser, and a pencil)
	Up to 10	Game: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, “The New Testament Overture” song, Bible
	Up to 5	Discussion: More Letters About Forgiving Others	Bible
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Delivering God’s Love	Box, craft supplies needed for the gift you choose to create
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Ask, Seek, Knock!	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Race to Repeat	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. Pray. Today, our New Testament letters teach us about forgiving others. Let's play a camp game that reminds us to forgive others many, many times!

Optional: For added fun through Units 5 and 6, adapt all camp games to a team point system. For suggestions, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

GAME: LOTS OF FORGIVENESS

Purpose: Campers tap the balloon 77 times to remember Jesus said to forgive 77 times.

Supplies: Non-helium balloons

Prepare: Inflate one balloon for each team.

Forgiving others is very important to Jesus. One day Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." In this game, we will remember what Jesus said as we race to see which team can be the first to tap the balloon up into the air 77 times!

Directions:

1. Divide campers into teams of equal size (2-5 players per team).
2. Each team stands in a circle. Give one camper on each team a balloon.
3. Explain the rules to the campers.
 - Every team member must tap the balloon once before anyone takes another turn.
 - If the balloon touches the ground or if a team member taps the balloon out of turn, give the balloon to the camper who is holding the balloon right now. He or she is to tap the balloon back into the air. Continue counting from where you left off.
4. On your signal, all the teams count aloud as they race to tap their balloon 77 times.
5. The goal is to be the first team to count to 77. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.

Counselor Clues: To make the game more difficult, have team count from 1 again if the balloon touches the ground or if a team member taps the balloon out of turn. This game can be adapted to be played outside by teams kicking a ball to each other 77 times.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Counselor Clue: To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.



Today, we worship the Spirit who guides us to forgive others. Forgiveness is very important to Jesus. He gave His life so we could be forgiven. Jesus says if we do not forgive others, God the Father will not forgive us. When we forgive others, we are obeying Jesus. Obeying Him is a great way to worship. Another way to worship is with our offerings. Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while collecting the offering.



Read Ephesians 4:32.



Sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on forgiving others.



Perform the Bible Barn script or read the storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 25. Include reciting the Camper's Code:

Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.
I will love my neighbor as myself.
I will be a light wherever I go.

Today's Camp Critter is a little lamb. Lambs are pure and innocent. That is how God sees us after He forgives us. He forgives and forgets our wrongdoings—we become as pure and innocent as little lambs! In the same way, we must forgive others and remember their wrongs no more!



New Testament letters

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Counselor Clue: Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent, or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

Prepare: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references (Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5) and place it in the counselor's Bible. Print the Pen Pal letter on the next page onto a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope. In a mailbag, place the New Testament letter scripture references, the counselor's Bible, Pen Pal Letter, blank sheet of paper, tape, and small pebble.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my counselor, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Welcome to Tent Time! Last time in our mailbag, we found letters about forgiveness. Jesus gave His life so we could be forgiven of our sins.

Counselor holds up mailbag. **Today, in our mailbag, we have letters about forgiving others. We will learn how we are to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us. Jesus says if we do not forgive others, God the Father will not forgive us. Let's see what Paul says about that in some of the letters he wrote.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor removes the Bible from the mailbag, opens it, and removes the list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Camper prays aloud. **Be seated. Let's read what Paul wrote to the people of Colosse about forgiving others.** Read Colossians 3:12-13.

We are to forgive others as Jesus forgave us. He forgave us in His perfect love. Let's see how Paul describes that kind of forgiveness in his first letter to the people of Corinth. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5.



Pen Pal

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

During Tent Time, we open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letters have to do with our lives. Read the Pen Pal letter.

Hey Pals,

Jesus wants us to forgive others. If you met someone who didn't know what it means to forgive, how would you describe it? Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we have done and the right things we have left undone (things we should have done, but did not.) Have you ever had to forgive someone for something he or she did to you? (Campers respond.) Have you ever had to forgive someone for something he or she would not do for you? (Campers respond.)

Have you ever heard of holding a grudge against someone? (Campers respond.) It means staying angry with a person for what he or she has done, instead of truly forgiving. Paul describes it as keeping a record of wrongs. Remove the blank paper, pebble, and tape from the mailbag. Fold the paper into a paper airplane or have an older camper fold it. **This paper airplane stands for your life. Let's think of this pebble as a grudge. When you do not forgive someone, it is as if you are carrying a heavy rock with you wherever you go.** Tape the pebble onto the paper airplane. Attempt to fly the weighted paper airplane across the room. **When we do not forgive someone, the grudge we hold weighs us down and keeps us from being all God wants us to be. We are hurting ourselves. Jesus does not hold grudges and He does not want us to either. Has forgiving someone ever been very hard for you?** (Campers respond.) Paul reminds us that we can avoid carrying a grudge by being kind, gentle, patient, and forgiving. If you ask God to help you forgive others, He will do it!

Close your eyes. Let's take seven seconds of silence. Ask God to remind you of anyone you have not yet forgiven for wronging you. Pause for 7 seconds of silent prayer. **Now, let's pray and ask God to fill us with His Spirit so we are able to forgive each person that has wronged us, even if they have never said they were sorry.** Lead a brief prayer asking for God's help in forgiving others.

Believe and Be Forgiving,
Your Pen Pal

THE WAY *continued...*



SHARE A PRAYER

Let's thank God for the way He forgives us. Let's ask Him to help us forgive others in that same way! Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

Lord, thank You for forgiving us. Fill us with Your kindness, gentleness, patience, and love so we can forgive others just as You have forgiven us. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. Pause for a moment of silence. We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard. I am giving you this stamp or sticker of a cross to remind you of forgiveness. Forgive others in the same way Jesus has forgiven you. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible. The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way and W³. Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

TREASURE TREAT: The Treasure Treats for Units 5 and 6 are New Testament Postcards. Campers receive a postcard and a stamp or sticker. The postcards are available at Resourcewell.org. If stamps or stickers are not available, have campers draw the stamp in the designated box.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 25 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.

W³ CHALLENGE (For Older Campers): Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #25 instead of the Daily Way. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

LETTERS FROM CAMP: Write a Letter from Camp to someone to let them know what you did today. Write or draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Sign it and share it with someone.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: HEARTS OF FORGIVENESS

Purpose: Campers will eat a snack while talking about times they have shown forgiveness to others.

Snack Suggestion: Any heart-shaped snack

What do you think this heart-shaped snack has to do with forgiving others? (Campers respond.) **What does it have to do with God forgiving us?** (Campers respond.) **God forgives us even though we do not deserve it because He loves us. He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to give His life for us, so all who believe in Him could be forgiven.**

We are to forgive others even when they do not deserve to be forgiven and do not say they are sorry. You are showing others the love of God when you forgive them. What are some ways you can show others you have forgiven them? (Campers respond.)

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you had to forgive someone?"**

GAME: GOODBYE GRUMPY GRUDGE

Purpose: For campers to remember how forgiving others causes our anger toward them to disappear.

Supplies: Dry erase board, eraser, and markers (or large paper, eraser, and a pencil)

I am going to draw a picture of a child who is staying angry at someone who has wronged him (or her). That is called holding a grudge. In this game, you will guess the letters in the word or phrase of the wrongdoing that needs to be forgiven.

Directions:

1. Draw a simple stick figure representing a grumpy child. Include many details such as a frown, hair, eyes, ears, nose, hands, and feet.
2. Choose a word or phrase from the list below or from your own list. Do not reveal the word to the campers.
Wrongdoings: Hitting, stealing, being mean, cheating, gossiping, lying, hurting
3. Beneath the picture, draw one dash for every letter of the word or phrase you chose. Leave a space between words in a phrase.
4. Campers take turns guessing letters.
 - If they guess a letter that is in the word or phrase, fill the letter in everywhere it appears on the appropriate dash (or dashes).
 - If they guess a letter that is not in the word or phrase, erase one body part or feature on the grumpy child.
5. The round is over when the campers guess the word or phrase or the picture of the grumpy child disappears.
6. **When we forgive others for wrongdoing, our anger toward them will disappear!**
7. Play again, choosing another word or phrase, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Campers learn the books of the New Testament.

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture" song, Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each book of the New Testament on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers so the books are not in order. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so campers can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" song two times. Encourage the campers to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the campers to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the campers, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge campers to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT FORGIVING OTHERS

Purpose: Campers learn of a third letter about forgiving others from the New Testament.

Supplies: Bible

Let's read another letter about forgiving others. This one was written by Paul to a man named Titus. Read Titus 3:4-5.

Did Jesus die on the cross because we all told Him how sorry we were for our sins? (No.) Did He die on the cross because we showed Him we would never sin again? (No.) Jesus died for us because He is kind and loving. We did not do anything to earn His forgiveness, but He gave His life so we could be forgiven.

Have you ever forgiven someone even though they never said they were sorry? (Campers respond.) Have you ever forgiven someone even though you knew they would hurt you again? (Campers respond.) That kind of forgiveness comes from God's kindness. God is loving and kind to us even when we do not deserve it; that is called mercy.

Has someone ever done something or said something to you that is very hard to forgive? (Campers respond.) Let's pray together that God would give you the love and kindness you need to be able to truly forgive that person—even if he or she is not sorry!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—DELIVERING GOD'S LOVE

Purpose: For campers to show God's love by giving a care package that relays God's love to others.

Supplies: Box, craft supplies needed for the gift you choose to create

Prepare: Choose a person or group of people to whom the campers will send the care package. Some examples: nursing home residents, home-bound persons, hospital patients, grieving families, college students far from home, homeless families, etc. Before class, choose a craft for students to create to show God's love to the recipient(s) or gather supplies and allow them to choose what craft they will make with the supplies you provide. Some ideas are:

- Bible bookmarks
- Cards
- Decorate plastic bags or gift wrap and enclose a tasty treat
- Bake and decorate cookies
- Booklets filled with Bible verses about love
- Decorate socks, shirts, or blankets with fabric paint
- Paint, color, or draw pictures
- In addition to the gift, make a card with a message encouraging the recipient(s) and telling them God loves them. You may choose to include printed Bible verses, such as Psalm 86:15, John 3:16, or Romans 8:39.

Counselor Clues: You may choose to let the campers suggest and/or decide on the recipient(s). If you have a large class, divide the campers into teams and create multiple care packages for different recipients. Have each team talk about why they chose that particular recipient to receive their team's care package. If possible, take campers with you to deliver the care package arrangement to the recipients or take a picture when you deliver the package to share with the campers.

Today, we learned what some of the New Testament letters say about forgiving others. When we forgive others as God has forgiven us, it shows them God's love. We can help connect people around us with God's love by sharing it with them!

During Camp Venture, we will care for others by making care packages we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make a package to connect other people with God's love. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

Directions:

1. Tell campers what craft they will be making or help them decide what to make to show God's love to the recipient(s).
2. Create and deliver the gifts!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

GAME: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!

Purpose: Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song

Our Bible Memory Verse is the words of Jesus encouraging us to keep praying because God is good and He answers our prayers. How do you think God feels when we pray about our questions and our needs? (Campers respond.) God never tires of hearing our prayers! What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Campers respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Campers respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. For example, you can ask God to somehow make a way for you to tell someone about Jesus. You can use the word "ASK" to help you remember our Bible Memory Verse:

A stands for "Ask and it will be given to you."

S stands for "Seek and you will find."

K stands for "Knock and the door will be opened to you."

Directions:

1. Campers sit in a circle.
2. Lead the campers in reciting or singing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.
3. **Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by going around the circle and each saying the next word in the verse. I will start.**
4. Say the first word of the verse, "Ask."
5. The camper on your left says the next word, "and."
6. Continue around the circle until the entire verse is said.
7. As time allows, play again. Challenge the campers to recite the verse faster each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

Directions:

1. Practice saying the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse together once.
2. Divide the campers into two equal teams.
3. Arrange the teams into two parallel lines about 15 - 20 feet from each other, facing each other.
4. Assign each team member with a number, so that each team has a player 1, 2, 3, and so on.
5. Place a Bible in the center of the play area between the two teams.
6. Call out a number.
7. The camper from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
8. The camper who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow campers to use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
8. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

Team Point System for Camp Venture (Units 5-6)

Teams: To adapt all Camp Games to a team point system for Units 5 and 6 (Lessons 22-31), divide campers into 4 teams. Instruct each team to create its own name and team banner at the beginning of the Camp Games segment of Lesson 22. Campers will remain on the same team for all Camp Games throughout Units 5 and 6.

Point System: Campers may earn points for their teams by attending Camp Venture, completing their Daily Ways, bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, winning a game, and showing good sportsmanship. At Camp Venture, good sportsmanship is respectful behavior toward others. It includes cheering for their team during games, playing fairly, tallying scores honestly, and cheering for other teams when point tallies are announced. Bonus team points are awarded for cheering and encouraging other teams.

Grand Prize: On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream or pizza party or something that would be special to the campers. Have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party.

About Competition: Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1st place, 75,000 points for 2nd place, 40,000 points for 3rd place, and 30,000 points for 4th place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.