



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts – 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 WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is your favorite number?

GAME: Lots of Forgiveness

THE WORSHIP THE SPIRIT WHO GUIDES US

Read Worship Scripture: Matthew 6:14-15

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform the Mail Call script or read storybook.

THE WORD LETTERS ABOUT FORGIVING OTHERS

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God led Paul and John to write about God's forgiveness of our sin.

Today, we have letters about us forgiving others. 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 in letters he wrote to the churches in Corinth and Colosse (or Colossae). Point to ancient Corinth and Colosse. This mailbag reminds us that in Bible times believers traveled long distances to share letters from Paul. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Colossians 3:13. Pray. Read.

THE WAY FORGIVE OTHERS

If you met someone who didn't know what it meant 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. Has a friend or family member ever forgiven you for something you did wrong? How did you feel to know you were forgiven? Have you forgiven someone for something he or she did to you? Have you ever forgiven someone for something he or she would not do for you?

What does it mean to hold a grudge against someone? Paul describes it as keeping a record of wrongs. Take paper, pebble, and

tape from mailbag. Fold paper into airplane. This paper airplane stands for your life and this pebble is a grudge. When you do not forgive, it is as if you are carrying a heavy rock with you wherever you go. Tape pebble onto airplane. Fly it. When we do not forgive someone, the grudge we hold weighs us down and keeps us from being all God wants us to be. When we hold a grudge, we are hurting ourselves.

Jesus does not hold grudges and He does not want us to hold grudges. With what does Paul tell us to clothe ourselves as God's people? (Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience.) How might these things help us to forgive? Has forgiving someone ever been very hard for you? If you ask God to help you, He will!

Let's take seven seconds of silence. Ask God to remind you of anyone you have not forgiven. Pause for silent prayer. Let's ask God to fill us with His Spirit so we can forgive those who have wronged us, even if they have never said they were sorry. Pray.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

More than 1000 years before Paul wrote to Corinth and Colosse about forgiving others, Jacob's son Joseph forgave his brothers for trying to harm him and selling him into slavery. Reveal Genesis 50:19-21. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

It is hard to forgive when someone has hurt us on purpose. It is even harder to then treat that person with kindness. That's what Joseph did. Not only did he forgive his brothers, he reassured them and spoke to them with kindness. Have you ever treated someone with kindness, even though they had hurt you on purpose?

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- **TREASURE TREAT:** New Testament Postcard about forgiveness, stamp or sticker of cross
- **DAILY WAY CHALLENGE**
- **OFFERING OF ART:** Your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned
- **PRAYER REQUESTS**
- **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG**

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Hearts of Forgiveness

GAMES: Goodbye Grumpy Grudge, New Testament Line

CRAFT: Care Package—Delivering God's Love

DISCUSSION: More Letters About Forgiving Others

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Ask, Seek, Knock!; Race to Repeat

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW