



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

Challenge Verse for older children:

"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	Lesson Aim
22	A Letter About Love—Part 1, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	To learn to love one another.
23	A Letter About Love—Part 2, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	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—Part 1, 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 Prayer—Part 2, Philippians 4:4-6	God led Paul to write about having peace of mind.	To know we can pray about everything.

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 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 symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Mailbox	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" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled," "Guide Me," "I Will Listen," "Love One Another," "The New Testament Overture," "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God," "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Prophets & Promises Lesson 25 Delbert & Lello or Mail Call script or storybook
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 Flannel board/figures: 2 children Clay or play-dough option: Heart
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Forgiveness Cross	Paper plate, sturdy white and colored paper, label, paper fastener, crayons or markers
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Smiling Faces Snack	Raisins or mini-candies
		Unit 5 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, pen, heart-shaped item, cross, eraser, plastic model of praying hands or picture of praying hands
		Hearts From God	Two red paper heart shapes per child
		Blanket Ball	Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon
		Freeze Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Scenes from Mail Call (older children only)	Mail Call scripts for Lessons 22, 24, 25, 26
		Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Bean Bag Toss	Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)
		Make A Story	4 stick puppets of children
		Final 5	Final Five

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Forgive each other **THE WELCOME**

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > **WORSHIP** > **BIBLE** > **CRAFT** > **PRAYER** > **SNACK** > **GAMES** > **COLORING** > **GOING HOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. **Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.**

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 remind you to forgive each other just 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.

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." **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."

* May substitute Lesson 25 Mail Call script or storybook.



Paul's letter about forgiving each other

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

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

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). Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a heart from clay or play dough as they listen to the story.



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.)



God forgives us

THE WAY

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

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.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 5 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > **GAMES** > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the New Testament Letters or the Unit 5 Worship Attribute: The Spirit Who Guides Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, pen, heart-shaped item, cross, eraser, plastic model of praying hands or picture of praying hands

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 5 New Testament Letters. The pen reminds us of the letters God led people to write to help us as we follow Jesus. The heart-shaped item reminds us to love one another. The cross reminds us that Jesus forgives us and we are to forgive others. The hands remind us to pray when we are worried. We can pray to God about everything!

GAME: HEARTS FROM GOD

Purpose: Children will share hearts dropped from "heaven" to show how they can love each other.

Supplies: Two red paper heart shapes per child

Where does love come from? (God.)

Directions:

1. **Imagine the falling hearts are God's love for you!**
2. Drop and scatter hearts from above the children's heads.
3. **Catch two hearts; one for you and one for a friend.**
4. Each child picks up two hearts.
5. **Give one heart to a friend!**
6. Help each child find a partner.
7. Each child keeps one heart to remember God loves him or her.
8. Each child gives the other heart to his or her partner to show love to one another.
9. Play again as time allows.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon

Optional: For a more challenging game, use the Unit 5 Bible Memory Challenge Verse (Matthew 7:7). Phrases may be divided as follows: "Ask/ and it will be given to you/ seek/ and you will find/ knock/ and the door will be opened to you."

Let's use this blanket to toss the ball into the air. As soon as the ball lands again on the blanket, we will say a part of the Bible Memory Verse (Matthew 19:26b): "With God/all things/are possible."

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place an inflatable ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
3. Together, children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball into the air.
4. When the ball lands back on the blanket, lead children in saying a word or a phrase ("With God/ all things/ are possible.") of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Play several times.

GAME: FREEZE DANCE

Purpose: To practice the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "With God All Things Are Possible" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," CD player

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Freeze Dance. Be sure to stop and freeze when you hear the music stop.

Directions:

1. Children dance as the Bible Memory Verse Song is played.
2. Have a helper periodically pause the music.
3. When the music stops, everyone "freezes" (stops in place and doesn't move). When the helper restarts the music, the children begin dancing again.
4. Play as long as you like.

GAME: SCENES FROM MAIL CALL

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 5 Bible stories, older children act out today's Mail Call script.

Supplies: Mail Call scripts for Lessons 22, 24, 25, 26

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's New Testament Letter.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise with the script so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: 1 chair per child, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: BEAN BAG TOSS

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

Supplies: Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)

Prepare: Use hula-hoop, rope, or floor tape to create a large target area on the floor.

Directions:

1. Give a beanbag to the first child.
2. Stand with the child approximately 6 feet from the target.
3. Before tossing the beanbag, the child says part of the Bible Memory Verse. (The teacher may say it with the child, as needed.)
4. Child tosses the beanbag at the target.
5. Children take turns to see who can reach the target.
6. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: MAKE A STORY

Purpose: To express the meaning of the Unit 5 Whisper Verses.

Supplies: 4 stick puppets of children

Directions:

1. Ask children if they would like to make up a story about one of the Whisper Verses listed below.
"Love one another."
"Do good to all people."
"Forgive each other."
2. Each child can make up his or her own story or children can make up a story together.
3. Encourage children to use the stick puppets to act out the stories.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

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

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way 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" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

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

Unit 5 Bible Memory Challenge 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