

Forgiving Vs. UnForgiving

Bible Point

Use forgiving words.

Bible Verse

Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.

Ephesians 4:32



Bible Story

Stephen being stoned

Acts 7:54-60

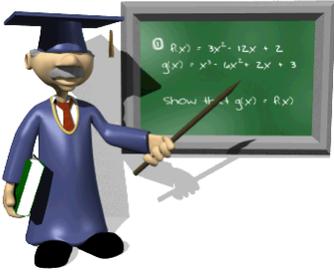
Forgiving

To stop blaming or feeling anger toward; pardon or excuse.

Unforgiving

Not forgiving.

(pp) Professor Von Smartt



Supplies:

- Large dictionary
- Bib
- Ten pieces of paper

Preparation: Tuck the bib into the dictionary. On one piece of paper write “Forgiving” on one side and “Unforgiving” on the other. Place all the sheets of paper in the dictionary in a way that each piece hangs out of the pages of the book.

Good morning students! I am Professor Von Smartt. I have come here today to . . .um . . .um. . . let me see, why did I come here? Oh yes, I have come here today to instruct you on some very important words in the dictionary. I have the words we are to discuss written here on a piece of paper so I won't forget them. (At this point the Prof. will start pulling pieces of paper out of the large dictionary, looking frantically for the right words. He pulls out the bib.) What is my oopster-droopster doing here? Well, you never know when you might dribble something and you will need your oopster-droopster. (Asks a child) Do you own an oopster-droopster? Oh, yes. Finally, the words for today. (Pull out the piece of paper with the words written on it.)

(pp) **FORGIVING.** To stop blaming or feeling anger toward. Forgiving is to not hold it against your brother when he breaks your favorite toy. Forgiving is to not try to get back at a friend when you find out they said something unkind about you. Forgiving words are not going and telling everyone when someone has hurt your feelings. That would be our other word today.

(pp) **UNFORGIVING.** Not forgiving. Words that are unforgiving are words like “I'll never forget you broke my toy.” Or when someone says they are sorry and you say “whatever” or “sure you are.”

Sometimes we must say forgiving words even when we don't feel like it. Then we ask God to help us really mean it. Students, ask God to help you have a forgiving heart and to say forgiving words.

Wheel of Truth

(pp)

Supplies:

- Letter cards
- Wheel
- Scoreboard



Preparation

Gather the card letters for the verse. Arrange the letters (with the back side showing) on the board as pictured in the introduction. Have someone keep score on the scoreboard.

Game instructions

Divide the children into three teams. Each week choose a different team captain for each team. Play will begin with one team. The team captain will spin the wheel. He/she will guess the letter with the help of the team. If the letter is in the verse, Vanna will turn the letter and the team will get the amount on the wheel multiplied by the number of letters. Post the score.

Teams may also buy vowels for \$200. Subtract \$200 from the score no matter how many vowels are in the verse

Let the team continue play in this way until they miss a letter or have had three turns. Play then moves to the next team. A team can guess the verse instead of guess a letter. If they are wrong, the play turns to the next team. If they are right, the team with the highest score wins.

Verse

Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.

Ephesians 4:32

Pat Say-That-Verse

It is now time to play Wheel of Truth. Today, we have the following contestants representing their teams. (Call out the names of the three children.)

Helping me today is the lovely Vanna Turn- That -Verse. Let's give a hand to Vanna. (Vanna should twirl dramatically.)

(Turn to team captain one.) It is time to spin the wheel. (Let the child spin the wheel and then announce the spot the wheel landed.) What letter do you think is in our verse today? (When the child guesses the letter, Vanna will turn any letters called out. Continue play in this way until the verse has been guessed.)

Congratulations, team _____. Thank you all the contestants for playing Wheel of Truth today.

(pp) **Word Twist**



(pp) If we take the word FORGIVE

And take away FOR

We get GIVE

When we FORGIVE we are doing this FOR someone

This means we are deciding to GIVE them something.

(pp) **Bible Story**



Stephen Being Stoned **Acts 7:54-60**

Supplies:

- None

Stephen was a follower of Jesus. He loved Jesus dearly. He preached to people about Jesus and wanted them to come to know Jesus and to follow Him. However, the people turned on Stephen. They spoke lies in order to have him brought before the Sanhedrin, the religious leaders.

Stephen shared about Jesus to this group of leaders. But they only became angry. In fact they were so angry the Bible tells us that, "they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him." They started yelling at him and they dragged him out of the city. When they got Stephen out of the city, they started stoning him. This meant they picked up stones off the ground and threw them at him. Their intent was to do this until he died.

How do you think Stephen reacted? Do you think he fought back in anger? Do you think he ignored them? He did the most amazing thing. He spoke forgiving words. He said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Then, he died.

(Today's prayer should come after the Hands On Activity. When finished with the Bible Story transition directly into the Hands On Activity.)

Hands On Activity

(PP)

Supplies:

- Dissolving paper
- Clear bowl



Preparation: Fill the bowl with water. Cut the dissolving paper into small pieces, enough for each child to have one piece.

Stephen was willing to say forgiving words even as he was being killed. Can you think of someone else who forgave as he was dying?

Jesus. He forgave the man on the cross next to him. He also asked his Father to forgive those crucifying Him saying they did not know what they were doing. The Bible says we are to forgive others just like Jesus forgave us.

Can you think of someone you need to forgive? Or maybe something you need to ask forgiveness for? (Give each child a piece of dissolving paper.) Pretend this piece of paper represents the thing you need to forgive or the thing you need to ask forgiveness for. For some of you, you may need to forgive a friend that has been unkind. Or a brother or sister that broke something that belonged to you. Others of you may need to ask Jesus to forgive you for something. Maybe you have never asked for Jesus' forgiveness before. (If the Spirit is leading you, present the plan of salvation.) Now would be a perfect time to ask Jesus to forgive you and invite him in your heart.

One by one, I want you to put the paper in this container of water. Let us do this quietly so everyone can think and talk to God. I want you to silently pray asking God to forgive you or to help you forgive others. Use your words now to forgive. (The water may need to be stirred for all the paper to dissolve.)

(PP) Prayer



Give the children an opportunity to quietly talk to God.

Everyone look at the water. What happened? The paper dissolved and is gone just like when you ask God to forgive you, the sin is gone.

It should work the same way when you forgive someone else. When we forgive with our lips, we should mean it in our hearts. When we mean it in our hearts that also means we will not bring it up to the person again.

(PP) Small Group



Supplies:

- Copies of Role Playing Cards (page 10)

Role Playing

How can you use forgiving words in each situation?

1. Your friend comes to you. She tells you that she lied to you about something. She says she is sorry. What do you do?
2. Your dad gets upset about something. He yells at you for something you did not do. What do you do?
3. Your little brother breaks your art project. He was just looking at it and it slipped out of his hands. What do you do?
4. Your older sister calls you a "big baby." She is always calling you a baby and you are tired of it. You could think of some really mean things to call her. What do you do?
5. Someone steals your bike. Later the police find it. It is broken. Later, they catch the kid that stole it. What do you do?
6. Your neighbor invites all the kids in the neighborhood over to swim in her pool. You do not get invited. What do you do?

Doodle Page

Draw who you think is saying this.



“Forgive each other, just as God forgave you
because of what Christ has done.”

Ephesians 4:32

Time Stretchers



Snack

Crispy Ice Cream Sandwich

Supplies:

- Two small Rice Krispie™ squares
- Small scoop of ice cream
- Plate

Have each child place a scoop of ice cream on a square. Put the other square on top of the ice cream. Remind them when we forgive others our insides (our heart) must be soft to the other person. Sometimes we have to just say the words but if we let Jesus help us we will find that our hearts will also forgive the person.



Fun Candy Giveaway: Sweet Tarts - forgiveness is sweet!

Craft

Tissue Paper Cross

Supplies:

- Cross pattern (page 12)
- Wax paper
- Various colored tissue paper
- Liquid starch
- Paint brush



Choose the colored tissue paper to use to cover the cross. Tear the colored tissue paper into 1/2 inch pieces. Place a piece of wax paper over the cross pattern. Brush the wax paper lightly with the starch. Place the tissue pieces on the wax paper using the cross pattern underneath the wax paper as a guide. Brush the top of the tissue paper lightly with starch. Add another layer of tissue paper and again brush with starch. Let dry. Peel the cross from the wax paper and trim. Hang in a window. We find forgiveness at the cross of Jesus. The cross is a reminder that we need to forgive others just as He has forgiven us.

Game

Constant Watch

Supplies:

- Balloon (hacky sack for older children)

Inflate the balloon and hit it into the air. The children must try to keep the balloon in the air by hitting it with any part of their body. To add to the fun call out a part of the body that must be used: hand, foot, head, back, etc.

Talk to the children about how forgiving words sometimes must be said over and over again. After we have said "I forgive you," Satan likes to remind us of the wrong that was done to us. Sometimes we start feeling angry or hurt again. We need to keep forgiving the person (not actually going to the person) but saying it inside of us. Just like we had to keep hitting the balloon to keep it up, we have to keep reminding ourselves that we are forgiving.



Memory Verse

Doodle Page

Complete the Doodle Page to review the Memory Verse.

Wheel of Truth

If using a board with letters for the Wheel of Truth, take down each word one at a time. Have the children repeat the verse each time a word is removed. Or, write the verse on a white board and erase each word.



Small Group Discussion

Your friend comes to you. She tells you that she lied to you about something. She says she is sorry. What do you do?

Your dad gets upset about something. He yells at you for something you did not do. What do you do?

Your little brother breaks your art project. He was just looking at it and it slipped out of his hands. What do you do?

Your older sister calls you a "big baby." She is always calling you a baby and you are tired of it. You could think of some really mean things to call her. What do you do?

Someone steals your bike. Later the police find it. It is broken. Later, they catch the kid that stole it. What do you do?

Your neighbor invites all the kids in the neighborhood over to swim in her pool. You do not get invited. What do you do?

Cross Pattern



Together Time



Bible Verse

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Bible Point

Use forgiving words.

Bible Story

Stephen being stoned

Acts 7:54-60

Forgiving

To stop blaming or feeling anger toward; pardon or excuse

Unforgiving

Not forgiving.

Family Discussion:

- When is it hard to forgive others?
- What is the hardest thing you have had to forgive?
- What can you do when you need to forgive someone and you just cannot seem to do it?

Family Fun

Make up a crazy family hand shake. Whenever someone apologizes in the family, use the family hand shake as a physical way of showing you have forgiven the person.

Family Challenge

Make a practice of saying "I forgive you" whenever anyone apologizes or says they are sorry.

Teaching Needs

Characters:

Professor Von Smartt _____

Pat Say-That-Verse _____

Vanna Turn-That-Verse _____

Supplies:

Professor So Smart: Large Dictionary Ten pieces of paper Bib

Wheel of Truth: Letter cards Wheel Scoreboard

Word Twist: None (included in PowerPoint)

Bible Story: None

Hands on Activity: Dissolving paper

Small Group: Copies of Role Playing cards

Doodle Page: Copies of Doodle Page

Snack: Two small Rice Krispie™ squares small scoop of ice cream Plate

Craft: Cross pattern Wax paper Various colored tissue paper Liquid starch
 Paint brush

Game: Balloon (hacky sack for older children)

Memory Verse: Wheel of Truth board or white board

Together Time Take Home Page: Copy for each child

