

Week of October 18, 2009

## Lessons for the Leader

Is it easy for you to forgive someone when she does something to you? What makes forgiving other people so difficult? Notice the example that Jesus set in Mark 2:1-12.

- Read Mark 2:1-12. From the perspective of the four friends carrying the man, reflect on their feelings and expectations as they neared the home. What about when they saw the crowd of people at the home? Were they willing to let anything stop them from bringing their friend to Jesus?
- Reflect on the views and attitudes of the homeowner. How did he feel as the men began removing part of the roof? Have you ever thought about who repaired the roof?
- Reflect on the views and attitudes of the paralyzed man. Do you sense excitement and hope that he would be healed? How did he feel when he saw the crowd of people? How did he react to the idea of being lowered through the roof? How did he react when Jesus told him to get up? Why did Jesus tell him to take the mat with him? What do you think he recalled each time he saw the mat?
- Reflect on the actions of Jesus. What lessons did Jesus teach about forgiveness? Whom did Jesus teach provides ultimate forgiveness?

It may be easy to say the words, "I forgive you," but do you really mean what you say? Do your actions and attitudes match your words? What type of example do you provide for your children regarding forgiveness? Can the children see that your actions and attitudes match your words? Pray for yourself, asking God to give you a forgiving attitude and help you set a positive example for the children in your ministry.

### What do these symbols mean?

- 1 → Application Activities Format:** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.
- 1** Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



## The Way Jesus Forgives

**Focus Passage:** Mark 2:1-12

**Key Bible Verse:** Psalm 86:5

### Life Application

I can follow Jesus' example by forgiving other people.

### Level of Biblical Learning (Self)

I can follow the examples, teachings, and commandments of Jesus.

## Session at a Glance

### Introduction to Worship (6-8 minutes)

Welcome the Children  
Play "Balloon Movers"

### Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Whoa!"  
Pray/Receive the Offering  
Sing "I'm Gonna Bless"  
Examine the Teaching Picture  
Tell the Bible Story  
Review the Bible Story  
Apply the Bible Story  
Show "Backyard Explorers" Video #2  
Sing "Almighty God"  
Sing "Ancient Words"  
Pray

### Application Activities (20 minutes)

### Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

# Introduction to Worship

**1** → Welcome the Children

**2** → Play “Balloon Movers”

## Pull It Together

Towels, inflated balloons, masking tape

- Use the tape to make start and finish lines as far apart as the room size will allow.
- Form teams of four children. (If necessary, form a team of two in order to include all children in the game. In a team of two, each child will hold two corners of the towel.)
- Guide the teams to stand behind the start line. Distribute a towel to each team.
- Instruct each team member to hold a corner of the towel. Place a balloon on each towel.
- Say: “Using only the towel, each team must bounce its balloon from the start line to the finish line and back to the start line.”
- Warn the teams that if a balloon touches the floor, the team must begin the race again from the start line.
- Signal the teams to begin.
- Acknowledge the team that finishes first. Congratulate all teams for their good work.
- Conclude: “In our game, four friends tried to move a balloon. Today in our Bible story, we will learn about four friends who carried a man to meet Jesus.”

## Worship

**3** → Sing “Whoa!” (DVD, 3 minutes)

**4** → Pray/Receive the Offering (2 minutes)

**5** Sing “I’m Gonna Bless” (DVD, 3 minutes)

**6** → Examine the Teaching Picture (3 minutes)

## Pull It Together

Print “Jesus Healing” (CD) teaching picture.

- Gather the children together.
- Hold the teaching picture above your head and release it with a gentle push so that it tumbles through the air and lands on the floor. If it lands facedown, ask one of the children to flip it over.

- Enlist a volunteer to describe what appears to be taking place in the picture.
- Say: “I discovered an interesting way to bring the teaching picture to you. In our Bible story, we will learn about four friends who discovered an interesting way to bring a man to Jesus.”

**7** → Tell the Bible Story (5 minutes)

- Open your Bible to Mark 2:1-12.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

## Jesus Healed a Man Who Could Not Walk

*Based on Mark 2:1-12*

Jesus went to the town of Capernaum. Remember the word *Capernaum*. Repeat the word after me. (*Lead the children in saying “Capernaum” out loud.*) When the people heard He was in the city, they gathered at the house where He was staying. Such a large crowd came that there was no room left in or around the house.

Some men brought their friend to the house to see Jesus. The friend was a *paralytic*, which is someone who cannot walk. The men were determined to get their friend to Jesus because they believed in Him. The crowd was so big that the men could not get the paralytic in through the door. Remember the word *friend*. Repeat the word after me. (*Lead the children in saying “friend” out loud.*)

The roofs in that part of the world are often flat and built to be walked on. So the men went up to the roof and made an opening in it. Then, they lowered their paralytic friend down through the roof to Jesus. Remember the word *roof*. Repeat the word after me. (*Lead the children in saying “roof” out loud.*)

When Jesus saw the faith of these men, He told the paralytic his sins were forgiven. Some teachers of the law were there. They did not believe Jesus is God’s Son; they thought Jesus was pretending. They thought, “Jesus cannot forgive sins, only God can do that!” Remember the word *sins*. Repeat the word after me. (*Lead the children in saying “sins” out loud.*)

Jesus knew their thoughts. He knew it would be easier for them to understand that He is powerful enough to forgive sins, if they could see His power at work with their eyes. The people could not see forgiveness with their eyes because it happens on the inside of a person, so Jesus told the paralytic to get up and walk home. Remember the word *walk*. Repeat the word after me. *(Lead the children in saying "walk" out loud.)*

The paralyzed man got up and walked home. Jesus had healed his body and forgiven him of his sins. Everyone was amazed and praised God. Remember the word *amazed*. Repeat the word after me. *(Lead the children in saying "amazed" out loud.)*

## 8 → Review the Bible Story (7 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Paper, pencil, poster board, marker

- Write each of the following questions on a separate piece of paper: (1) *What is sin?* (2) *Why is Jesus able to forgive sins?* (3) *How can we follow Jesus' example of forgiving sins?*
- Call on volunteers to repeat, in order, all six of the key words they remembered from the Bible story. Compliment each volunteer for her attempt and good memory.
- Lead all the children to repeat the words aloud together.
- Write the key words on the poster board.
- Enlist a child to retell the Bible story in his own words, using the key words on the poster board as a guide. Assure him that he does not need to describe every detail of the story, but simply tell the main points. Thank him for his good work.
- Lower the three pieces of paper to the floor in the same manner as the teaching picture. Warn the kids to move out of the way so that each piece of paper can land on the floor.
- Call on a child sitting near a piece of paper to pick up the paper and read the question. Involve the entire group in answering the question. Repeat this process for the remaining two questions.
- Emphasize the following points: (1) Sin is disobeying God. (2) Jesus can forgive sins because He is God's Son. (3) We can follow Jesus' example by forgiving others who have hurt us in some way.

## 9 → Apply the Bible Story (6 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Worship Guides, pencils

- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils.
- Lead each child to complete the "Forgiveness Meter" activity.
- Pair the children and guide them to share their answers with their partners.
- Gather the children together.
- Enlist a volunteer to read aloud the key Bible verse, Psalm 86:5, from his Bible.
- Ask: "According to this Bible verse, how does God forgive us?" *(with love)*
- Challenge the children to forgive others in the same way that God forgives them.

## 10 → Show "Backyard Explorers" Video #2 (DVD, 9 minutes)

### Teacher Tip

No worms were harmed in the making of this video.

- Ask: "When someone does something to you, are you willing to forgive the person, or do you want to get revenge? What if what the person did was an accident, does that make a difference? Let's see what Carter does after Brian drops his model airplane."
- Show video.
- Say: "Carter wanted to 'get even' with Brian. Carter even said that Brian was 'going to pay' for what he did. How do you think Carter's desire to get even with Brian impacted their friendship? How did Sam help Carter recall how Brian forgave him? What could happen if Brian and Carter do not work out their differences?"
- Continue: "Is it easier to forgive someone or to ask someone to forgive you? Why?"

## 11 Sing "Almighty God" (DVD, 2 minutes)

## 12 Sing "Ancient Words" (DVD, 3 minutes)

## 13 → Pray (1 minute)

## 14 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up.

# Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

**15** Share the ABC's of Becoming a Christian  
(5 minutes)

## Teacher Tip

Assure the children that you will be available after the session to speak further with any of them about becoming a Christian.

- Draw each child's attention to the "ABC's of Becoming a Christian" activity in his Worship Guide.
- Review the "ABC's of Becoming a Christian" with the children.
- Emphasize God's forgiveness when reviewing the ABC's.
- Lead in a prayer, asking God to help the children understand these ABC's.

**16** Remember the Bible Story and Pray  
(5 minutes)

- Challenge the children to repeat aloud, in order, the six key words from today's Bible story.
- Enlist a volunteer to tell the story using the key words as a guide.
- Encourage the children to name actions for which they may need to forgive another person. After each action is named, lead the children to pray this sentence prayer: "Dear God, let me follow Jesus' example of forgiveness. Amen."

# Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

**15** → Share Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite children to share their Application Activity experiences.
  - Arts and Crafts—Wind Chimes
  - Dramatic Play—Magnet Theater
  - Games—Balloon Race
  - Exploration and Discovery—Lower the Board

**16** → Share the ABC's of Becoming a Christian  
(5 minutes)

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- Review the "ABC's of Becoming a Christian" with the children.
- Emphasize God's forgiveness when reviewing the ABC's.
- Lead in a prayer, asking God to help the children understand the "ABC's of Becoming a Christian."