

Forgiving Our Neighbor
Lesson: Showing Mercy
Grades PK, TK, Kindergarten Lesson



Goal:

Students will learn about the importance of offering forgiveness to their neighbors. They will learn of God's forgiveness to each of them, and will have reinforced the understanding that just because someone does something wrong does not make them a bad person.

Lesson:

Forgiveness and mercy are needed for everyone. Everyone makes bad choices, but our bad choices do not define us. We can relate this to children whose choices tend to have small consequences as well as to adults whose choices have larger consequences.

Sing and Dance:

Get the students moving and singing with the video *"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High!"*

Bible Story:

Jesus taught us how to pray in the Bible when he first prayed the *"Our Father"*. Every day when we say this prayer, we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". What does that mean exactly?

Children may not all know what forgiveness is or what it is for. We can help them to understand when we are each in need of forgiveness when we do things that are wrong or hurt other people. Ask students for examples.

Watch "God Forgiveness". What does this animated story tell us about forgiveness? Everyone makes mistakes and does bad things sometimes. But, Jesus forgives us every single time, as long as we ask him to. And, forgiveness provides us with grace to get back on track doing good again.

There are also times that we need to forgive others, as God has forgiven us. What does this look like?

Watch "Why Do We Need to Forgive"? Forgiveness is the way to be a good friend. How often do we need to forgive? How does forgiving others help bring us joy?

Activity:

Have children practice saying the Our Father. Say it nice and slow and help them understand words that may be new to them.

You can print and use the “Our Father Printable for Kids” that provides graphics for each phrase in the prayer.

The kids can do an Our Father Coloring Page to reinforce the message.

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for forgiving me when I do something wrong.
Please help me to forgive others.
Amen.

