

MARCH
WEEK TWO

Preteen



Work in Progress: Redo, Rewrite, Restore

Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.



Bible Story
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

When has someone forgiven you?

MEMORY VERSE

"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13, NIV



Weekly Cues



Preteen

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



Morning Time

As your kid starts their day, encourage your child by sharing a way you've seen them grow or change.



Meal Time

At a meal, have everyone at the table answer this question: "When has someone forgiven you?"



Drive Time

While on the go, ask for their forgiveness for a parenting fail (we all have them!).



Bed Time

Pray for each other: "God, if there is someone in our lives who we need to forgive, remind us of them. And Lord, we pray you give us the strength and compassion to forgive them."



PARENT CUE

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AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES

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Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



Lined area for journaling responses to the question.



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

- 1. You liked:
Watch this week's episode of The So & So Show by going to: https://bit.ly/PreteenSundaysatHome
2. You learned: Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!
3. You'd like to know:

Day 2

Read Luke 19:1-10

Read Luke 19:1-4, 7 and underline the way Zacchaeus is described, as well as the things that others say about him.

Next, read how Jesus showed forgiveness toward Zacchaeus in verses 5-6.

Lastly, choose the answer below that describes how Zacchaeus was changed by Jesus' forgiveness.

- A) He quit being a tax collector
- B) He gave back four times what he had stolen from people
- C) He gave half of what he owned to the poor.
- D) Both B and C

(Hint: You can find the answer in verse 8.)

In a single day, Zacchaeus went from outcast to beloved follower of Jesus! His entire life was changed from the inside out. He promised to give away half of what he had to the poor, plus four times the amount he cheated anyone. That might have been nearly all he had! But it didn't matter because Jesus had forgiven Zacchaeus completely, even before he asked.



Day 4

Jesus went to stay at Zacchaeus' house and share a meal with him.

When that happened, Zacchaeus recognized his sin and changed his ways. There's something about sharing a meal with someone that makes it easier to share your life with others.

Take this question to the next meal that you share with others. It could be some friends at lunch or your family at dinner.

When has someone forgiven you?

Take turns answering the question and sharing how that forgiveness helped you change.

Day 3

When you forgive others, it can change them.

Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive that maybe hasn't asked you for forgiveness? Remember, forgiving someone doesn't mean that you will allow them to continue to hurt you. But if someone hurt you and you can find a way to show forgiveness to them, you might actually see them change. It's not guaranteed, of course, but it does make it much easier for that person to change.

Personalize the prayer below to ask God to help you forgive.

*Dear God, I know I need to forgive _____ for _____ Forgive _____ is hard, especially since _____ hasn't asked for my forgiveness. But I don't want to hold on to the anger, and I want to free _____ heart toward _____ to change. Please soften _____ You and toward me, and please give me wisdom on how I can show _____ forgiveness. In _____

Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.*

Day 5

When Zacchaeus realized he had done something wrong and needed to change, he changed big time.

Instead of stealing money from others, he ended up giving back over half of what he owned.

Head to a door where you live and try this:

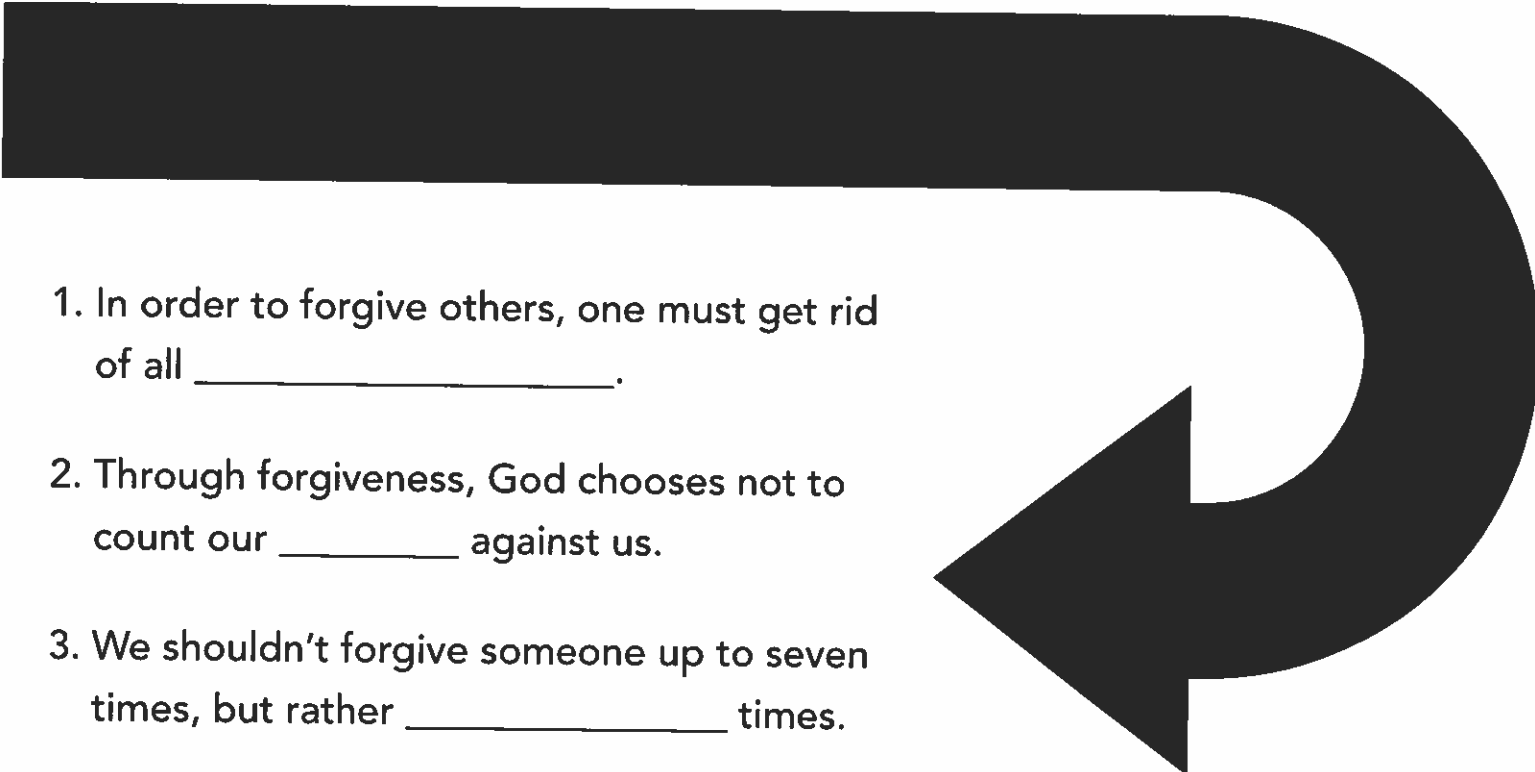
Sometimes when someone hurts us, they apologize, and we immediately forgive them. It's like we open the door so the relationship can continue. (*Open your door.*)

Sometimes they apologize, but we struggle to forgive them. (*Mostly close the door, leaving just a bit of space.*)

And sometimes they never apologize, and that might be the hardest time to forgive of all. (*Close the door all the way.*)

We can't control if other people change, but we can still offer forgiveness—and that forgiveness can open the door for them to change.

Think about keeping your door wide open this week as a reminder that forgiveness opens the door to change.

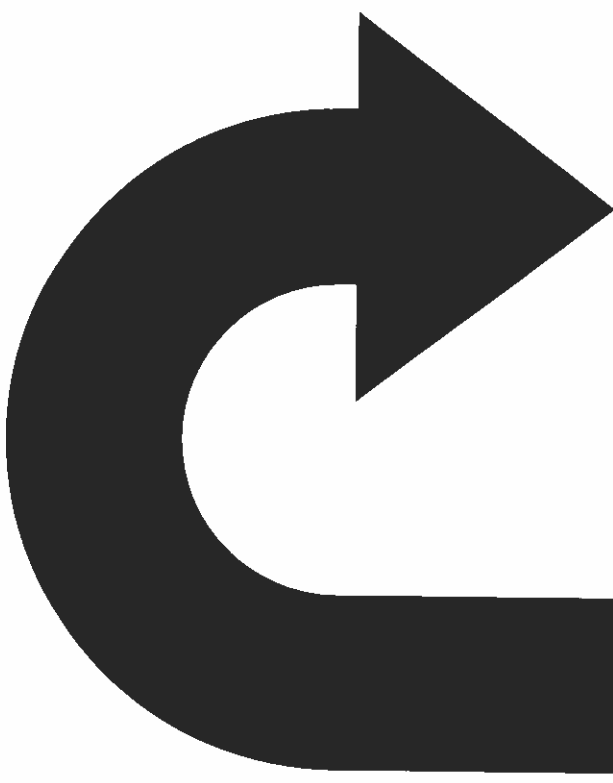


1. In order to forgive others, one must get rid of all _____.

2. Through forgiveness, God chooses not to count our _____ against us.

3. We shouldn't forgive someone up to seven times, but rather _____ times.

4. God is full of _____ and _____.



5. When you are _____, you can ask God to help you forgive.

6. God's forgiveness should motivate us to _____ others.

What to Do:

Print two copies for each group. Cut the verse cards apart.

"Forgiveness Builds Change" Activity Page

March 2023, Week 2, Preteen Small Group

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It was a _____ day in Hickory Heights. The birds were chirping cheerfully.
(ADJECTIVE)

_____ barked to each other from their fenced in backyards. And the sound of delivery
(PLURAL NOUN)

truck brakes squealed, as _____ were conveniently left on front doorsteps. All was well
(PLURAL NOUN)

until the moment the mystery occurred.

That afternoon, Jack, Jamel, and Janine climbed off the _____ at their stop. The
(NOUN)

group of friends were _____ and _____ as always when they
(VERB) (VERB)

came across something _____. As they passed old Mr. Jerry's house, they noticed a
(ADJECTIVE).

_____ sitting on the front lawn, torn open. They approached the box to look inside.
(NOUN)

It was completely _____, except for some _____
(ADJECTIVE) (ADJECTIVE)

_____ and what looked like _____.
(PLURAL NOUN) (PLURAL NOUN).

Just then, their friend, Jalisa walked up, who had stayed home that day with a _____. "Do
(NOUN).

you know anything about this _____?" asked Jack. "No! Why?" replied Jalisa, who oddly
(NOUN)

had some _____ _____ on her white sneakers. "Well, it seems weird
(ADJECTIVE) (PLURAL NOUN)

that you happen to be right here next to this _____, and the _____
(NOUN) (PLURAL NOUN)

on your sneakers match the _____ inside!" accused Jack.
(PLURAL NOUN)

What to Do:

Print one copy for each group.

"Changing Stories" Activity Page

March 2023, Week 2, Preteen Small Group

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"I stepped in a _____ while _____ to see you guys at the bus
(NOUN) (VERB ENDING IN -ING)

stop!" shouted Jalisa. The friends weren't convinced, which made Jalisa _____. After
(EMOTION)

_____ for a few minutes about what to do, Janine decided they should investigate. The
(VERB ENDING IN -ING)

group began knocking on the _____ surrounding Mr. Jerry's house to ask if the neighbors
(PLURAL NOUN)

saw anything _____.
(ADJECTIVE).

"I saw Jennifer out _____ this morning," said Mrs. Jones.
(VERB ENDING IN -ING)

"I noticed a stray _____ roaming the streets," claimed Mr. Jennings.
(NOUN)

"I did see Mr. Jerry's grandson playing in his _____ a little while ago," admitted Mrs. Juarez.
(NOUN)

"_____!" shouted Janine, and she, Jamel, and Jack _____ back
(EXCLAMATION WORD) (PAST TENSE VERB)

down the street to Mr. Jerry's house. At first, they didn't see anything except for the _____.
(NOUN)

But then Jamel yelled, "Back there!" and pointed towards the _____. The friends
(PLACE)

raced to the _____, where they found little Johnny, Mr. Jerry's grandson, sitting on the
(PLACE)

_____, covered in something _____ and _____.
(NOUN) (ADJECTIVE) (ADJECTIVE).

What to Do:
Print one copy for each group.

Looking rather guilty, Johnny _____ his _____, and sheepishly said,

(VERB)

(NOUN)

"The _____ smelled so _____, and I couldn't wait to see what was

(NOUN)

(ADJECTIVE)

inside!" Apparently, Mr. Jerry had ordered _____ from the best _____

(PLURAL NOUN)

(PLACE)

in town, and his grandson got to the delivery before he did.

Janine looked at Jamel and Jack, and said, "I think we owe Jalisa a huge _____!"

(NOUN)

Everyone agreed, and together they found Jalisa who was _____

(ADVERB)

_____ on the sidewalk in front of Mr. Jerry's house. "We're so sorry for blaming you,

(VERB)

Jalisa!" they all exclaimed, "Will you please forgive us?" "Of course," replied Jalisa. And the four friends

_____ back to where Johnny was _____, to see if he had any more

(PAST TENSE VERB)

(VERB ENDING IN -ING)

_____ left to share.

(PLURAL NOUN)

What to Do:

Print one copy for each group.

"Changing Stories" Activity Page

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