

# CITY SG- March 25/26

**Bible Story:** 77 Times / Unmerciful Servant • *Matthew 18:21-35*

**Bottom Line:** Since God forgave you, you should forgive others.

**Memory Verse:** “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” *Colossians 3:13, NIV*

**Life App:** Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay.

## True, False, or Not in Story

**What You Need:** Plastic bins (3 per bin), custom signs (1 of each per bin), masking tape (1 per bin), beanbags (1 per bin)

### **What You Do:**

- Tape a “TRUE,” “FALSE,” and “NOT IN STORY” sign on each of the containers.
- Place the containers in a row about five feet from your small group area. Mark a starting line with masking tape on the floor.
- Point out the signs and read them aloud.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Read the statements below. Kids must determine if the statement is true, false, or not in the story. Each team will line up behind the starting line. Select a team to go first, answer the question, and throw the beanbag into the appropriate container.
- If the player answers correctly, his team receives five points. If the beanbag makes it into the appropriate container, they receive an additional five points. If he answers incorrectly, give them the correct answer and an opportunity to throw the beanbag anyway. If he makes it in, his team still receives five points.
- After all the statements have been read, tally points and declare a winner.

### **What You Say:**

- What would you have done if you owed the king all that money?
- Do you think it was fair for the King to throw the first servant into jail? Why or why not? (*Yes, he owed so much and chose to not listen*).
- Did Jesus mean that we are only able to forgive someone 77 times? (*No we can forgive someone as many times as needed*).
- Have you had to forgive someone multiple times? What was hard about it? **[Make it Personal]** Share a time you had to forgive someone multiple times. Remember to keep it appropriate.
- **[Bottom Line]** since God forgave you, you should forgive others.”

## Cause and Effect

**What You Need:** “Cause Statements” and “Effect Statements” cards (1 set of each per bin and each in a different color), “Cause and Effect” Key Sheet ( 1 per bin)

### **What You Do:**

- Talk to the kids about the relationship between cause and effect. Give the following example: “You should brush your teeth twice a day, so you don’t have cavities when you go see your dentist.” The cause—brushing your teeth twice a day—leads to the effect of no cavities.
- Let a couple volunteers come up with their own cause and effect statements.
- Shuffle the “Cause Statements” and lay them face down in a stack in the center of your small group area. Do the same with the “Effect Statements.”
- Let the kids take turns drawing a “Cause Statement” to read aloud and then work together to find the matching “Effect Statement”. Answers are on the Cause and Effect Key Sheet.

### **What You Say:**

- Are there causes and effects in relationships as well? Why or why not?
- Do you think there is an effect to God's forgiveness? (*I can forgive others*).
- Do we have to forgive a bully? (*yes*). Do we have to be friends with them to forgive them? (*No*).
- Do we have to forgive someone who has hurt us before? (*Yes*) What else should we do? (*Get a trusted adult's help*).
- How many times do you think you should forgive someone? How many times does Jesus want us to forgive?
- **[Bottom Line] Since God forgave you, you should forgive others."**

## **Pray**

**What You Need:** Slips of paper (1 per child), pencils, dark markers (campus supplies)

### **What You Do:**

- Pass out a slip of paper, a pencil and a dark marker to each kid in your group.
- Encourage the kids to think of someone they need to forgive and write that person's name on their slip with **the pencil**. Remind them that no one else will see what they write.
- Ask the kids to hold the slips as you pray.
- When you finish praying, encourage the kids to write their own name over the name on their slip with the marker. They should make sure to write their name in large letters so that it completely covers the original name.

### **What You Say:**

"God, we love You. Thanks for reminding us today that we can forgive because You have forgiven us. We don't want to be like the servant in our story who was forgiven for so much and then refused to forgive others. Help us to remember that we ALL need forgiveness and that you give it, always. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **Sticky Verse**

**What You Need:** Sticky hand (4 per bin and extra), 2 sets of "Memory Verse" cards with blank cards (two sets in two different colors), Bible

### **What You Do:**

- Review the Bible verse and help the kids find it in the Bible.
- Place all the cards on the ground face down (there should be two sets).
- Split the kids up into two teams and hand four kids a sticky hand.
- They will race each other to find the cards and put them in order of the verse.
- If they get a blank card, they are to put it back on the ground.
- The team that gets all the right cards, and puts them in the right order, wins the game.

### **What You Say:**

- What words in this verse popped out?
- How did God forgive us? (*He sent Jesus on our behalf to die for our sins*).
- How can we forgive others? (*God gives us the strength we need to forgive others*).
- What do you think grievances means? (*Things that annoy us or makes us angry*).
- What's a way we can remember to forgive others like God forgave us?
- **[Bottom Line] since God forgave you, you should forgive others."**