

Alley SG - September 16 & 17, 2017

Bible Story: Forgive and Let By (Forgive One Another) • *Colossians 3:13, John 21:1-17*
(Supporting: *John 18:1-27*)

Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17 NIV

1. Just For Fun

- **Ask:** Would you rather have the ability to erase memories from your own mind or the ability to erase memories from someone else's mind? Why?
- **Another Option:** What do you think about telling secrets? Do you think they're good or bad? Or can they sometimes be both?
- **Let** students discuss the answer to the question.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles (3 per group), dice (3 per bin), sticky notes (3 per bin), pens or thin markers (campus supplies), *optional:* timer

What You Do:

- **Ask** kids to get in groups of 3.
- **Pass** out one Bible to each group or let them use a Bible app on their phones if they have them.
- **Pass** out about 10 sticky notes and a pen/thin marker to each group.
- **Tell** them that they will create a chain of events based on what they read—they can stop every few verses to write down one event on each post it or they can read the whole chapter and go back to summarize the events.
- **Challenge** them to figure out who's going to do what (but all kids will work together to interpret the passages):
 - 1 person to be the reader, 1 person to be the roller/timer, 1 person to be the writer.
- **Ask** the roller/timer to roll the dice for their group. They will read a specific passage based on what they roll.
 - **Roll 1 or 4:** read John 13
 - **Roll 2 or 5:** read John 21
 - **Roll 3 or 6:** read John 18
- **Remind** them to focus in on Jesus and Peter when they read their chapter.
- **Ask** the reader to read out loud. Everyone can help the writer figure out what to write on each sticky note.

Tip: If they seem confused, you could read a few verses out loud from one of the passages and help them come up with a few events to put on the notes.
- **Remind** them that if they forget something or want to change something, sticky notes can easily be moved or rearranged.
- **Give** them five minutes to read their chapters and write down their chains of events.
 - The group member who is the timer needs to give his or her group warnings if they are getting close to running out of time.
- When the time runs out, **challenge** them to walk around and read the other groups' chains of events.

Wrap Up and Say:

“Peter not admitting that he was Jesus’ friend and follower must have hurt Jesus even though He knew Peter would. But still Jesus forgives and trusts Peter to play a big role in sharing Jesus’ story with the world. Jesus knows that we’re going to mess up, but He still forgives us and invites us to be part of what He’s doing now.

3. Discussion Questions

- What are some things that are easy to forgive?
- What are some things that are harder to forgive?
- What do we worry will happen if we forgive people who have hurt us? Or what keeps us from forgiving our friends?
- How many times do you think you should forgive a friend? Is there a max?
- Does forgiveness mean everything goes back to the way it was before?
- What happens if we don’t forgive? What do our friendships look and feel like if someone needs to forgive someone else but doesn’t want to do it?

4. Making it Personal with Prayer

What You Do:

- **Ask** them why forgiveness is such a big deal? **So what?** Why is it important?
- **Then** ask them what they’re going to do next. **Now what?** What’s one thing you can do this week to take a step toward forgiving the way Jesus did?
- Before they leave, **ask** them to close their eyes so you can pray and send them out.
 - You could also open it up to a couple volunteers who pray and then close in prayer yourself, using the example below as a starting point.

Dear Jesus, help us this week to be the type of friend you are. You forgive us over and over. Help us to be kind to others this week. We want to be generous friends who believe the best and not the worst in other people. Help us to remember that we aren’t perfect and that You still choose not to hold everything we do wrong against us. We want to forgive others when they hurt us and move on in healthy ways. Be with us this week and remind us to practice forgiveness when we have the chance. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

5. Extra Time Activity: God Time Take Home Sheets

What You Need: God Time Sheets (one per child) and pens or pencils (one per child)

Allow students to work on their take home sheets as time allows, and remind them to bring them back next week for \$5 in Alley Cash.