

City LG - 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

(Prep for Opening Activity)

Worship: Praise Goes On and Won't Let Go

"Welcome back to another lunchroom edition of The City! It's been a great month, and friendship can be great too, can't it?! It's a good thing we've got The City to learn together how we can be better at this friendship stuff.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

"Our memory verse this month has a great word about friendship too: *A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes*, Proverbs 17:17.

"A friend loves at all times. Well, a friend SHOULD love at all times, right? But let's be honest, we don't always show love to our friends, do we? We don't always see eye-to-eye with our friends, do we? How many of you in here have ever gotten into an argument with your friends? (*Pause for response.*) How many of you have ever gotten into a FOOD fight with your friends? (*Pause for response.*) Huh, that sounds like a lot more fun, doesn't it? Well, guess what! Two of you are going to get to do that today! I need two volunteers who think that they've got master food-flipping skills!

Opening Activity: "Foam Food Fight!"

- Two second or third grade volunteers (do not need to be preselected)
- Masking tape to divide play area
- Phone timer
- Prop box containing:
 - 2 lunch trays
 - Bags of foam food
 - 2 plastic spoons

Bring up two second or third grade volunteers.

"Hey, kids! Here's how this is going to work. Each of you will have a giant pile of foam food on your tray. But you don't want to keep it that way! Your goal is to have the least amount of food on your side of the tape by the time the clock runs out. So, when I say go, you'll have one minute to use the flipper here to toss as much foam food as you can to the other person's side of the line. Just keep tossing as long as you have time left. Try to keep them on the stage. But you can't use your hands—only the flipper—to toss them over. Got it? Okay, let's get in our places.

Move each kid to one side of the tape and pour out the foam food onto their trays. Encourage the kids to kneel on the floor behind the trays, flippers ready. Set your phone timer for one minute, and then do a countdown to start and to end the fight.

“That was epic! Way to go, you guys! Can each of you please pick up your side and help me clear the stage while we watch our Bible lesson today?”

CG: Lesson Video Week 3

“The cool thing about food is that it contains exactly what we need. Might be bread for one person, cereal for another. Jesus is the same way. He knows exactly what we need—what spiritual food we need to feed our spirits. He knew Peter was hurting, and He knew that Peter messed up by denying Him. Instead of rubbing his nose in it, or even bringing it up at all, He forgave him. And that’s the same thing that Jesus asks us to do. Let’s take a look at our Bottom Line for today.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Friends forgive one another. Showing forgiveness is a HUGE way you can be a great friend. It’s important, but it’s also really hard sometimes. Unfortunately, sometimes friends are going to make you mad. You’re going to get tripped up, messed up, gossiped about, argued with, made fun of, and laughed at. And your friends will do this because your friends are human beings who make mistakes. And you, believe it or not, are not always going to be a good friend either.”

“There are two ways we can handle this situation. Whenever a friend treats you badly, you can treat them badly right back, going back and forth being mean to one another until you’re no longer friends. OR you can forgive them.

“When Jesus died on the cross, it paid for your sins. That means God offers forgiveness to you every time you treat someone badly and every time you’re a not-so-great friend. And if God forgives you, shouldn’t you forgive your friends when they aren’t kind to you? That food fight earlier was pretty funny, but real life fights aren’t so much fun. Thankfully, now we know that because we were forgiven, we can forgive others too. Let’s pray before we head into Small Group, and we’ll see you next week!”

PRAY: “Lord, thank You for Your forgiveness. We know we mess up—a lot. There’s not a day that goes by when we don’t fall short of Your goodness. But I know—I believe in my heart—that You have forgiven all of us, and Your love covers anything we might do or say that isn’t exactly the best. Thank You that Your Word constantly teaches and challenges us to become more like You. Please give us opportunities even this week to show forgiveness to our friends. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)