

Alley SG-March 7th-8th, 2020

Bible Story: Everything Has Changed (Zacchaeus) • *Luke 19:1-10*

Key Question: What does it feel like to be forgiven?

Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.

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*)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Deck of Cards (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Shuffle** the cards.
- **Deal** one card to each kid face down and **place** the deck face down in the center of the circle.
- **Explain** that the object is to not have the lowest card. Card values from high to low are: Ace, King, Queen, Jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2.
- **Tell** kids to look at their cards.
- **Select** a kid to go first.
- **Ask:** Do you want to change your card?
 - If the kid thinks her card might be the lowest, she says “yes” and switches cards with the kid to her left.
 - If she thinks her card will not be the lowest, she keeps her card.
- Now, **ask** the next kid to the left, “Do you want to change your card?”
- **Continue** around the circle until everyone has had the opportunity to change her card with the kid to her left.
- If the last kid in the circle wants to change her card, she draws a card from the deck in the center of the circle.
- Once everyone has had a chance to change her card, have the kids flip their cards over to see who had the lowest card.
- Play as many times as interest allows.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- **Give** kids a piece of paper and markers.
- **Ask** them to draw an object, maybe a house, a car, or a cat; any object is fine.
- When most kids are finished drawing, instruct kids to switch papers with one other person and **challenge** them to change that object into something that can fly or walk.
- **Allow** kids to share their new creations.
- **Switch** papers again and **challenge** them to change their flying object into something that can breathe underwater.
- As time allows, **keep offering** suggestions for ways to change their creations.
- Suggestions could include: something that can make it snow (or rain), something that can live on the sun. (*Optional: Let kids to suggest ways to change their creations.*)
- After each change, **allow** kids to share what they came up with.

What You Say:

“You came up with some very creative changes to transform your pictures. Change can be a good thing.

[Transition] Today we heard how forgiveness changed someone, and how forgiveness can change us.”

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: “Emojis” Pages (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- **Lay** the “Emojis” in a 2x3 grid on the floor.
- As you lay the “Emojis” on the floor, **ask** the group what feelings they associate with each emoji, e.g. happy, sad, surprised, angry, thankful, confused.
- **Gather** kids around the “Emoji” grid.
- **Read** a scenario listed below.
- When you say “How do you feel?” **instruct** kids to place their hand on an emoji that represents how they would feel in the scenario you read.
- **Allow** kids an opportunity to share why they selected the “Emoji” they did, especially if multiple “Emojis” were selected.
- **Scenarios:**
 - You and your friend get to go see a movie that you have been wanting to see. How do you feel?
 - You and your friend get in a fight and your friend says something mean to you. How do you feel?
 - Your friend apologizes. How do you feel?
 - You and your friend get in a fight and you say something mean to your friend. How do you feel?
 - You say you are sorry and your friend doesn’t forgive you. How do you feel?
 - You say you are sorry and your friend forgives you. How do you feel?
- **Ask** kids to describe the difference between how it feels when someone forgives you and when someone holds a grudge against you.

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time you were forgiven. Maybe you told a friend you would meet them for lunch and you forgot and didn’t show up. Or you were angry and said something unkind to your brother and you felt bad but your brother forgave you and didn’t try to get even. Share how it felt to be forgiven. Allow kids to share a time they were forgiven too and how it felt to be forgiven.)

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Explain** kids will pass a “motion” around the circle. To play:
 - **Ask** for a volunteer to start by making a small motion. For example: a thumbs up, a low high five, a head nod, a small hop, etc.
 - The kid to their right expands on the motion making it slightly bigger or more exaggerated.
 - The “motion” continues around the circle with each kid expanding on the “motion.”
 - By the time it reaches the last kid in the circle, the motion is EXTREME. For example: what started as a small hop ends up as a spinning jumping jack.
- **Play** for a few rounds while interest lasts.
- **Give** kids Bibles.
- **Guide** the kids to look up the Bible story, Luke 19.
- **Read** together Luke 19:1-4.
- **Ask:** What do we know about Zacchaeus? (*he was a chief tax collector, he was rich, curious about Jesus*)
- **Read** together Luke 19:5-7.
- **Ask:**
 - What did people say about Zacchaeus? (*people called him a sinner*)
 - Why would people call Zacchaeus a sinner? What did Zacchaeus do that made people dislike him? (*Be prepared to review what a tax collector did—they overcharged people for their taxes and kept some of the money for themselves.*)

- *Tip: To demonstrate how people felt towards a tax collector, ask kids to imagine going to pay for a candy bar that costs \$1.00 and the cashier tells you the price for the candy bar is \$2.00. So, you pay the \$2.00 and the cashier puts \$1.00 in the register and the other \$1.00 in his pocket. How would you feel toward the cashier?)*
- **Read** together Luke 19:8-10.
- **Ask:**
 - Why do you think Jesus came to Zacchaeus' house for dinner?
 - Why do you think Zacchaeus respond like that to Jesus? Some might say Zacchaeus' response was EXTREME. Why?
- **Explain** forgiveness can result in an EXTREME change in people. Jesus' forgiveness certainly resulted in an EXTREME change in Zacchaeus.

5. Discussion Questions

- How did Jesus' forgiveness change Zacchaeus?
- What does it feel like to be forgiven?
- How could forgiving someone change them?
 - If necessary, **give** a scenario. For example:
 - You get an "A" on your math test. A kid at school makes fun of you calls you names because you get good grades and follow the rules. The kid never says he is sorry for being mean to you. What does it look like to forgive the kid for calling you names? How can forgiving them change you? How can forgiving the kid change him?
 - You told your friend something embarrassing you did and they promised not to tell anyone at school. At lunch you overhear your friend repeating what you said to someone else. This isn't the first time your friend broke a promise. What does it look like to forgive your friend? How can forgiving your friend change you? How can forgiving your friend change them? (*This example could be a great opportunity to explain forgiveness doesn't mean you have to trust your friend, but it does mean you have to treat him or her kindly. Forgive your friend doesn't mean you have to forget your friend keeps breaking your trust; it means you don't try to get even or hold a grudge, and maybe it means you stop sharing personal, sensitive information with that friend.*)

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle and **ask** them to close their eyes.
- **Lead** them in prayer using Colossians 3:13 as a guide.
 - **Remind** kids to remain reverent and quiet during this exercise so they don't become a distraction to their peers.
- **Pray:**
 - God, You are *[prompt kids to silently fill in words praising God]*
 - Thank You for the people You have put in our lives to love and encourage us *[prompt kids to silently thank God for specific people in their lives]*
 - And even though I love them and they love me there are times when we don't get along *[prompt kids to silently tell God if there is someone they are struggling to be nice to or someone they are mad at]*
 - God sometimes forgiving people is very hard. Help me to not hold a grudge and to not seek revenge. *[prompt kids to share with God a grudge they are holding on to]*
 - God, Thank You for Jesus and for forgiving us. Amen!

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!