

ALLEY SG – September 23– 25, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Please Forgive Me (Forgive One Another) • *Colossians 3:13*

Today's Key Question: Why is forgiveness important?

Today's Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*
Proverbs 17:17 (NIRV)

1. Ask for Forgiveness

What You Need: White board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

What You Do:

- Ask kids if anyone wants to share things they have done where they've needed to ask God for forgiveness.
- Don't pressure anyone to share, but also remind them that everyone does things that require forgiveness.
- As kids share, write brief descriptions of what they say on the white board. (ie: "*Lied to Mom*" or "*Called brother a mean name.*")
- After everyone has had a chance to share, use the eraser to erase everything that was written on the white board.
- Remind kids that God forgives us, no matter what. This should motivate us to forgive our friends.
- Ask, "What can happen to a friendship if you don't forgive the other person?"
- Next, ask if anyone wants to share about how they may be struggling to forgive someone else.
- Once everyone has had a chance to share, remind kids that they can always talk to God and ask for help with forgiving others. God loves us, understands everything we go through, and will be there for us.

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: "Sweet Verses Questions" Activity Page (3-5 per service), Sweet Verses Cards (one set per group) Bibles, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Put kids in pairs and invite kids to spread out with their partners.
- Give each pair a Sweet Verse Questions Activity Page.
- Give each pair of kids a verse card.
- Tell them to read the verse on the card and look up the verse.
- Then they will read the questions on the "Sweet Verses Questions" Activity Page and work together to write down their answers.

- Give each pair a turn to read their verse out loud for the entire group and then share the answers they wrote to the questions. Allow time for discussion.
- Explain that these verses can all help us remember how to be a good friend to the people in our lives. If any of them are particularly relevant, encourage them to write that verse down and take it with them.

3. Discussion Questions

- Have you ever had to forgive someone?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to forgive?
- Why is forgiveness important?
- How has God forgiven us?
- How do you think things would be different if God didn't forgive us when we mess up?

4. Memory Verse Roll

What You Need: a soft ball (one per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together. *"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."* Proverbs 17:17 (NirV)
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

5. Pray

- "God, thank You so much for the friends You've put in our lives. Thank You for the opportunity to be a good friend for others. Please help us keep our promises and know which promises are worth making. Please help us be brave and encouraging as we stand up for our friends. Help us be quick to forgive others and not hold on to our hurts. We know that **friends forgive one another**, just like You forgive us for our mistakes. We thank You for everything You've done and everything You will do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."