

CITY LG – September 23- 25, 2023

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

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)

WORSHIP

We are Royals

Hands Toward Heaven

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! How's it going? If you're having a great day, give me a thumbs-up! Okay, great! Can anybody remember what we've been talking about this month? *(Pause.)* That's right! We've been talking about friendship.

SLIDE: Virtue

Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.

SLIDE: Theme

God made us to be good friends who show love with the things we do and say. One of the best ways to have good relationships with the people around you is to forgive quickly, and to say you're sorry when you're the one who's done something wrong.

I'm going to give you some time to discuss this question as a group....

Have you ever forgiven a friend for doing something wrong to you? *(walk around and listen to kids' answer is their groups. Bring them back together in a few minutes when most groups are done).*

Today we're looking at something the apostle Paul wrote about that's an important part of friendship. Paul was also known as Saul. He's the same person who we talked about in our story last week. It's all about forgiveness. Let's check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story

One of the best ways to have good relationships with the people around you is to forgive quickly, and to say you're sorry when you're the one who's done something wrong. That helps with your family, with your friends, and with just about everybody! It will make your friendships stronger.

Let's stand up for our bottom line...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Friends forgive one another.

Paul wrote about that to the Colossians, because he wanted them to have strong relationships with each other. He wanted them to know that following Jesus makes it easier to love others and forgive them.

Of course, it's important to remember that forgiving a friend doesn't mean that what they did was okay. It doesn't mean that they should KEEP hurting you. Forgiveness just means that you're not trying to get even with them. It means that you AND your friend are choosing to let go of what went wrong in order to make things right—together. If you're in a friendship where you have to keep forgiving the other person, you should talk to your parent or another adult you trust who can help you know if that's a friend you should be spending time with.

One thing I know is that I've messed up with my friends, and I'm so glad they've been willing to forgive me. I'm so glad that I can forgive them, too, because it's a great way to treat others the way I want to be treated.

In a little bit we will start small group and talk about that some more. Let's pray...

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that we need to forgive each other. Thank You for sending Jesus and making a way for US to be forgiven. The next time we feel hurt or frustrated, please help us remember not to carry those feelings inside. Give us the courage to forgive our friends and let it go. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

SLIDE: Theme

OFFERING:

Here is one way we can show others we care – our offering money will be going to families in Kenya all year! They are experiencing a lack of food because of an on-going drought, so we are collecting money for food baskets to help those in the area of Turkana. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now while we watch this video of Turkana families receiving food baskets.

Turkana video #2