

## CITY SG – 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)

### 1. Friendship Bracelets

#### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Black string (precut long enough so they can tie it. one per kid); red, yellow, and blue beads (two of each per kid), a couple of pairs of scissors, tape

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each child a black string.
- Set out the beads and encourage each child to take two of each color.
- Allow them to put two of each color bead on their bracelet.
- If it's helpful, have the kids tape one side of the string down on the ground to make it easier to put the beads on.
- Explain what the colored beads represent on the friendship bracelet.
  - Red represents promises. Good friends keep their promises.
  - Yellow represents encouragement. Good friends stand up for each other.
  - Blue represents forgiveness. Good friends forgive each other.
- When they are finished, help them tie the bracelet on their wrist. Cut off the excess string if there is a lot.
- As the kids make their bracelets, unpack what each color represents using the example conversation below.

#### **What You Say:**

"We learned a lot about friendship this month! Our friendship bracelets can remind us what we've learned. When you look at your bracelets, remember these parts of friendship. The red bead represents promises. Good friends make promises that they can keep and make them from their hearts. Friends keep their promises.

"The yellow bead represents encouragement. Good friends encourage their friends. They include their friends. They tell the truth about their friends. Friends stand up for one another.

"The blue bead represents forgiveness. That's what we talked about today! It's important that good friends forgive each other when they make mistakes or hurt their feelings. **Friends forgive one another.**

"Even though God wants us to forgive our friends, that doesn't mean that we let someone continue to hurt us. If someone keeps hurting us, it's important to tell a safe adult—like a teacher, parent, or a church leader. But in most cases, we can forgive others and move forward in our friendship, and our friendships get stronger and stick together!"

## 2. Discussion Questions

### Ask:

- Have you ever had to forgive someone?
- Why is it sometimes hard 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?

## 3. 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 the 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.

## 4. 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 **[Bottom Line] 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."