

Adventures with GOD!

FORGIVE OTHERS (A.2.Winter.13)

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| Biblical Reference | Philemon 1:8-21 |
| Key Verse | Luke 6:37c |
| Key Concept | God forgives me and I should forgive others. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain what it means to forgive2. Say why we forgive3. Act out a situation in which someone asks for forgiveness and the other person forgives |

Life Application

One way we show our love is forgiving others. We have been forgiven by God and this is the biggest demonstration of love we have. God asks us to forgive people who have offended us. The children in your class live in a world where people don't like to forgive. The models they have sometimes aren't very Christian in their attitude about forgiving others. In this class they will see biblical models of forgiveness and will learn about the responsibility we have to forgive and to ask forgiveness.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Opening prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Review | Illustrations | 10 minutes |
| Introduction | Clear vase, water, food coloring, bleach | 10 minutes |
| Bible exploration and drama | Illustrations and Bible | 10 minutes |
| Prayer | | 5 minutes |
| Activity | | 10 minutes |
| Snack | | 5 minutes |
| Closing prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle.

Prayer: “God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen.” (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Review: As the class today is related to what they’ve been talking about all trimester, it would be good to do a review. Take out the illustrations you’ve used during the trimester. Put them on a table or on the floor and have the children gather around. Ask them to tell one thing about the story that corresponds to each illustration. Review different ways we show others our love.

Introduction: Have a clear vase with clean water. Find red food coloring and a little bit of bleach. Start by talking about how important it is to forgive others and to be forgiven. Show the vase with water and talk about how good it is when we are forgiven. Add red food coloring and talk about how when we sin there’s a lot of yucky stuff that gets in the way of our relationship with God.

But God wants to forgive us and when we ask for forgiveness God cleans our sins (put a few drops of bleach into the water and it will become clear again). When God forgives our sins, our hearts are clean. Just as God forgives us, God wants us to forgive others.

Bible exploration: Tell the story of Philemon and Onesimus, that is found in Philemon 1:8-18. Explain what it means to forgive and that Paul told Philemon to forgive and receive Onesimus. It’s a very exciting story because it wasn’t common in the time of Paul to forgive the debts of a servant or a slave. Use simple words to tell the story. Ask them why God wants us to forgive others. Talk about how God forgives us.

Drama: Give some examples of real life situations where we need to ask for forgiveness and forgive others. Have the students act them out.

Prayer: Take advantage of the time together to answer questions and pray together. Ask them when they’ve asked for forgiveness, or when they might need to. Pray asking God to help us to forgive others and to ask for forgiveness.

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Activity: Give each child a worksheet (see the following pages). It has drawings of different situations. They can circle the drawings that show forgiveness. Other options for activities are also included in the lesson.

Snack: Use this time to teach the Bible verse, as well as enjoy a snack together.

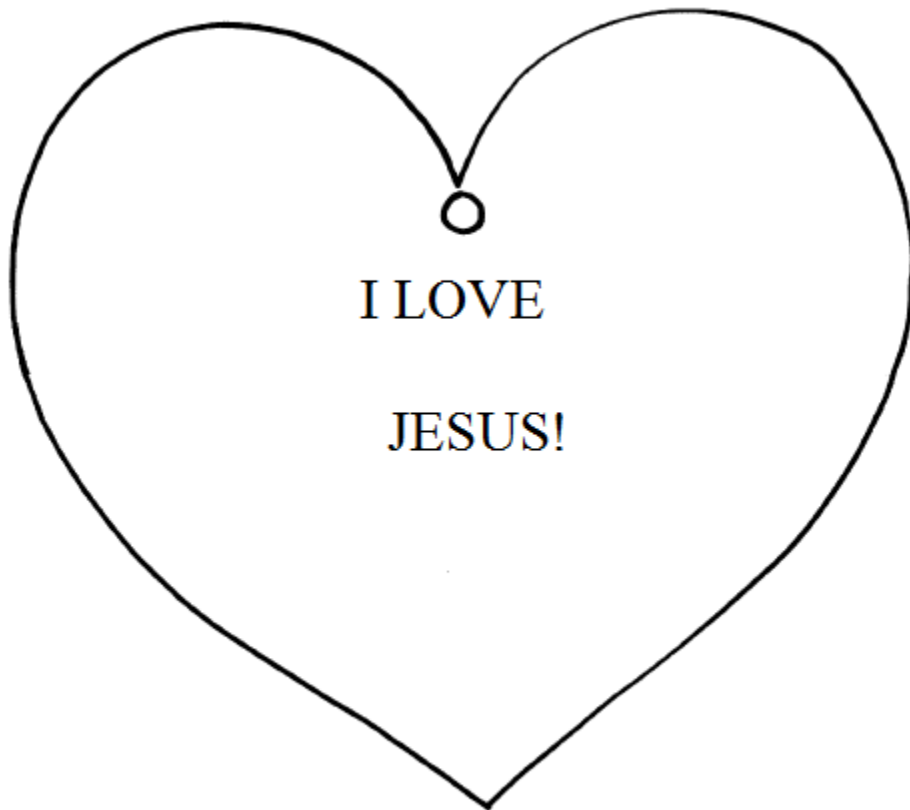
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle.

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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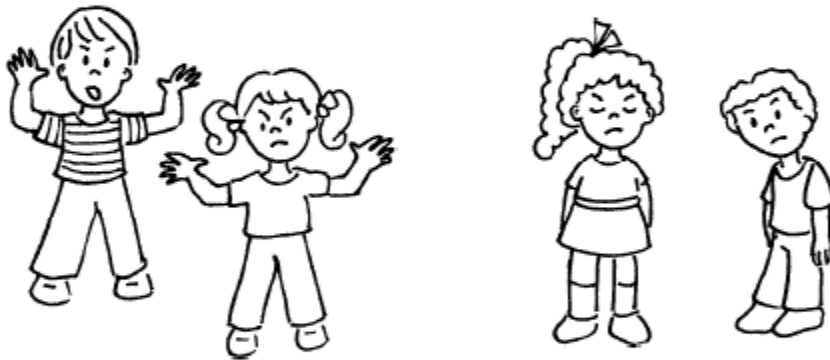
CRAFT

Make a copy for each child of the heart. Write the words, "I Love Jesus!" in each heart. Have the children decorate it. Give them a piece of string to make it a necklace.



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ILLUSTRATION/ACTIVITY



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ACTIVITY

God likes it when we forgive others even when they've done something wrong to us. Put a circle around the drawing that shows someone who has forgiven the other person.



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WORKSHEET

In the first drawing there is a child hitting another child. Which picture below shows the response that God wants us to have, even with our enemies? Circle it and color the drawing.

