

City LG-March 14th-15th, 2020

Bible Story: Step by Step (Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness) • *Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24*

Bottom Line: Take the first step to forgive others.

Memory Verse: *Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 (NirV)*

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: “Higher than the Sky” and “Won’t Let Go”

Worship Leader prays...

CG: Camp Manitoqua Slide

CG: Camp Manitoqua Promo Video

“Camp Manitoqua is a great opportunity for you to meet new friends and learn more about Jesus! You don’t want to miss it! All of the information is on this card (*show postcard*). Make sure you grab one before you leave today!”

CG: Forgiveness Slide

“Hi, everyone! As we go through God’s Big Story, we find lots of amazing things that Jesus did . . . and lots of amazing things that Jesus said. (*Hold up Bible.*) Jesus taught in a way that helped people understand God’s love in a whole new way!

“One time Jesus was teaching on a mountainside. He told His friends, the disciples, about how important it is to make things right with others. Here’s what Jesus said.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:23-24 (NirV) and read.

“Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother or sister has something against you. Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with them. Then come back and offer your gift.”

“Back then, people would bring gifts to God’s altar. It was kind of like what we do today when we come to church and pray and worship God. Jesus was saying that if we have a problem with someone—if we’ve hurt someone somehow—we should stop what we’re doing to go and make things right with them.”

“We all get frustrated sometimes, don’t we? I mean, I argue with people every now and then. I don’t always get along with everyone.

“Sometimes I argue with my friends or my siblings because we disagree about something. Raise your hand if that’s ever happened to you. (*Pause for response.*) When that happens, we both usually get annoyed and frustrated.

“I mean, why can’t I just pick the movie we’re going to watch? Why do YOU have to take the last chocolate chip cookie?”

“Can you think of some more situations where people might argue or disagree? Raise your hand if you have a situation to share.”

Call on some kids to give their answers. Repeat the answers out loud if they're especially good ones. If an answer is inappropriate or off topic, just say, "That's good," and move on to the next one.

"Those were some good answers. I think all of us have had disagreements like that. So, what happens AFTER you have an argument with someone?"

"Maybe if your mom or dad or teacher hears you arguing, they'll come and ask what's wrong. You tell them your side of the story.

"It's not MY fault. SHE started it. SHE hurt my feelings!"

"It's easy to think about what the other person did wrong. It's easy to think about all the things we think we've done right.

"We might even try move on and act like it never happened, but the truth is, there's something that has come between us and the other person. We might even go on to school or practice or even church and try to pretend that everything's fine. But if we can't admit when we're wrong, everything is NOT fine.

"It's almost like we're building a prison around ourselves when we can't apologize for what we've done wrong. We're building a prison around ourselves when we don't forgive."

"Jesus said that before we do anything else, we should make things right with that other person. We need to make the first move to ask for forgiveness. And it usually starts with saying those two words that can be so tough to say: 'I'm sorry.' That's what our video is all about today. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:00)

"Remember, Jesus said it was really important for us to make things right with each other. He said that we should stop everything else and work hard to try to fix our relationships. Maybe that means saying you're sorry. Maybe it means forgiving your friend for what they've done or said to you. Probably it's a little of both.

"You don't have to wait for someone to TELL you to apologize. You don't have to have someone TELL you to forgive. You can work toward forgiveness by taking the first step and choosing to make peace.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"So, **[Bottom Line] take the first step to forgive others.** You'll be so glad you did!"

"Let's pray and ask God to help us **[Bottom Line] take the first step to forgive others.**"

Pray: "God, thank You for showing us what real forgiveness looks like. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin, so we could experience Your love and forgiveness for ourselves. When we have arguments or disagreements with our friends or family members, please help us take the first step to make things right. Help us to say, 'I'm sorry,' when we need to. And please help us to be quick to forgive. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"Even if it feels impossible to forgive, pick one thing you can do to take a step toward the other person.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "Take the first step to forgive others.

"Don't let things build up. Be the first one to apologize. And if someone hurts your feelings, decide to forgive and let it go. **Treat others the way you want to be treated.** Be quick to say you're sorry and quick to forgive. That's how you take what's wrong and make it right.

"You'll get to talk some more in Small Group about how you can **[Bottom Line]** take the first step to forgive others. Before we head there, let's worship God with our offering!"

Offering Time:

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called 'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them."

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

"(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Here's a picture of the school!"

CG: MOHI JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*)."

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 2:00)

Dismiss kids to their small groups.