

City SG-March 7th-8th, 2020

Bible Story: Everything Has Changed (Zacchaeus) • *Luke 19:1-10*

Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.

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)*

1. Matching Game

What You Need: Matching Game Cards (1-3 set per group)

What You Do:

- After your group has settled in, lay out all the cards in a grid.
- Play a memory game:
 - Let one kid go first and choose two cards to flip over.
 - If the cards are a match, that kid gets to keep them.
 - Play then moves to the next kid (even if the first kid got a match).
 - Whoever has the most matches at the end of the game wins!
- If you have a large group, divide the group into two or three smaller groups to give everyone a chance to play as much as possible.

2. Broken Pieces

What You Need: “Broken Pieces” Puzzle (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Give each child one puzzle piece, making sure each piece has a match somewhere in the group.
- If you have an odd number of kids, take a puzzle piece yourself and play along with the kids.
- Once everyone has a piece, tell kids they have to find the friend who is holding the other piece that completes their puzzle.
- The team to build their puzzle first wins!
- Collect and redistribute the pieces, and play as many rounds as you want.

What You Say:

“You guys are so good at matching up your puzzle piece! What did you notice about your puzzles? Were they all places that you like to go? There was school, church, a soccer field, and a home. Do all of those places sound familiar? **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we heard a story about a man who changed and then changed others all around him!**”

3. Set the Table

What You Need: White Cardstock (1 per child), markers

What You Do:

- Pass out paper and markers.
- Tell the kids they need to draw a picture of a big table. They can draw their favorite people around the table and their favorite food on the table. It should be a picture of their favorite dinner ever!
- As the kids are drawing, ask the questions below to get them thinking about the different ways they have forgiven their friends and family.

NOTE: Keep in mind what you know about your kids' home lives. Be sensitive to difficult situations kids might be in and, if necessary, avoid questions that might trigger an emotional or “loaded” response. If needed, have private conversations with kids if a subject arises that warrants follow up.

- Have you ever had to forgive a brother or sister? (For example: They accidentally broke a toy or ripped a drawing.)
- Have you ever had to forgive a friend? (For example: They didn't use their words nicely and said something mean.)
- Have you ever done something to a friend that needed forgiving? (For example: You didn't keep a promise, or you ignored someone in order to play with another friend at recess.)
- Have you ever had to a parent? (For example: They said you would get a sweet treat after dinner and it didn't happen.)
- After the conversation, give kids time to share about their pictures.

What You Say:

“When we forgive our friends or our family, does it make the friendship better? (Yes) When you forgive others, it makes the friendship stronger! When Jesus had dinner with Zacchaeus and then forgave him, Zacchaeus was changed forever and then he was able to go and make things right with others, too.

[Make It Personal] (Tell about a child-appropriate time when you forgave someone or someone forgave you and it changed them or changed you. Tell kids how that grew your relationship with that person.)

4. Coin Collecting

What You Need: “Verse Coins” Page (1 per kid), Scissors, Bibles

What You Do:

- Review Colossians 3:13 together as a group.
- Pass out the “Verse Coins” Activity Pages.
- Instruct each child to cut out his/her coins
- Encourage children to then shuffle the coins and set them in front of them in your small group area.
- On “Go!” the first player to put all their coins in the correct verse order wins!
- Play as many rounds as interest allows.

What You Say:

“Put up with one another’ is a kind of funny phrase, isn’t it? But sometimes we need to do just that. Everyone messes up sometimes and says something they don’t really mean or does something selfish to get their way. And sometimes other people’s choices hurt us. But God tells us to forgive and let go if we’re holding on to something against someone. Let’s remember how good it feels to be forgiven. Let’s choose to forgive with God’s help knowing that ***[Bottom Line] when you forgive others, it can change them.***”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Do:

- Ask kids to (silently) think of someone they might need to forgive or someone they’ve forgiven recently.
- Encourage them to pray on their own for a moment or two.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Let’s pray together and ask God to help us choose to forgive this week, knowing that ***[Bottom Line] when you forgive others, it can change them.*** God, in every situation that’s been prayed for already, help each one of us to forgive. When we feel like staying mad or when we find ourselves looking for ways to get even, help us to remember the story of Zacchaeus and choose to forgive. Thanks for loving us, God. Help us to love others. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!