

## ALLEY LG – March 4-6, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Everybody Hurts (A Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet) • *Luke 7:36-50*

**Today's Key Question:** What does it feel like to be forgiven?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Everyone needs forgiveness

**Monthly 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)

**SUPPLIES:** *Etch-A-Sketch*

### SLIDE: Theme

"Hey, everyone! I am so excited for another month here in the Alley It's time to kick off the month as we talk about how our lives are a Work in Progress. Sometimes we simply need God to restore us, or we even need to learn what it means to restore a relationship with someone else. Sometimes we need a redo. Sometimes we need to rewrite and edit our lives.

"Well, you want to know what my favorite editing device of all time is? No, it is not voice commands on a phone or tablet. No, it's not a laptop or even a desktop . . . this has actually been around way longer than all of those devices combined. Ready? An Etch A Sketch!

Any of you ever have one of these? What happens when you make a mistake?

*Host calls for response.*

"That's right . . . you shake it up!

"Easiest editing of all time. Well, we're about to supersize the Etch A Sketch® with a game we like to call Human ETCH A ReSKETCH It.

### SLIDE: Human ETCH A ReSKETCH It

"First, let's divide the room in half. Here's how the game works: you'll work as a team to be an Etch A Sketch® and create the object I call out. After you think you have the shape, a leader will give you the thumbs up. You all will then SHAKE the board clear (*everybody shakes*) and reSKETCH the next design. We will see who can get the all clear on all five rounds first. Oh, and every person has to be part of the object you create, so get creative!

*Select a leader to watch and approve each round before they move on. Use the following prompts or create your own. Play 5 speed rounds and make sure everybody shakes between rounds!*

"Everybody ready . . . set . . . AND go!

*Round 1: Triangle*

*Round 2: Capital Letter L*

*Round 3: Exclamation Mark*

*Round 4: Capital Letter Q*

*Round 5: Smiley Face*

"(After the game) Wow! That was awesome! Seriously, very impressive! You sure know how to shake things up and go from a work in progress to a wonderful Sketch! I mean, you all figured out how to really look like the shapes of those objects I called out."

“This month, we’re taking a look at some moments from Jesus’ life when He talked about forgiveness. We define forgiveness like this: deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay. Wow! That’s big, right? Kind of like erasing the Etch a Sketch! Forgiving someone when they’ve hurt us can be one of the hardest things we have to do, but it helps when we remember just how much we’ve been forgiven.”

“The truth is that often we make light of forgiveness. We do something wrong; we apologize, receive forgiveness, and go on like nothing ever happened. But that’s the thing about forgiveness. When we do something that hurts or even breaks a relationship with others, forgiveness is often the only way we can ever think of being close with that person again.

“Today, as we head into the story, I’d love for us to think about the times we’ve really messed up. Maybe you ruined your mom’s favorite sweater or spilled your juice all over your sister’s favorite stuffed animal. You didn’t mean to do these things, but when they happened, they impacted your relationship. You wish things could go back to how they were before those mistakes, but the only way to fix it is with some forgiveness.

“How does it feel when you’re on the receiving end of so much forgiveness? How should we respond to that sort of forgiveness? What can we do to make sure we’re forgiving others in the same way?

“These are great questions to think about. Thankfully, we have a great place to look for answers: the Bible! Remember, people had experiences with God and were inspired to write them down for others to learn from later. The writers of the Bible had A LOT to say about forgiveness.

“But, before we jump into our story, let’s recap where we are in God’s Big Story.

“We’ve been traveling through God’s Big Story since the beginning of the school year. We’ve seen how the prophets told about the Savior who was to come. Then, when the time was right, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. At this point in the story, Jesus was an adult. He was teaching people about His Father in Heaven . . . healing people who were sick . . . and performing amazing miracles.

“Now we come to a story that shows us how Jesus was willing to forgive. (**Hold up Bible.**) We find this story in the book of Luke. Luke is the third book of the New Testament. It’s one of the four gospels that talks all about Jesus, why He came, and how we can follow Him with our whole lives! Let’s get to it!

**Video: The So and So Show 13:20**

“You know, it can be easy for us to make ourselves feel pretty good by simply looking down the line at others who are ‘worse off’ than us. ‘At least I’m not as bad as that kid.’ ‘At least I don’t do THAT.’ ‘At least I have never gotten in trouble like they have.’ But when we do this, we miss out on the reality that we all need forgiveness, and when we experience the forgiveness of God, it leads us to experience and express love for God. Like the woman, we want to show Jesus how thankful we are for Him.

“The greater we understand forgiveness, the greater we will love. That is so important for us to remember!”

“Today as you go to groups, think about this:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

“**What does it feel like to be forgiven?** When have you experienced some significant forgiveness? How did it cause you to respond to the person who forgave you? If you’re not sure how you’d answer this question for yourself, that’s okay, too. You’ll have a chance to talk all about this and more with your Small Group. Before you head out, though, let’s pray and express our love for God. After all, God has shown us some amazing forgiveness through Jesus! Let’s pray!”

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

*Lead the group in prayer.*

**SLIDE: Memory Verse**

Our memory verse this month is a good one to memorize to help us with this topic of forgiveness:

*“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)*

Let’s all say that again together.”

**OFFERING:**

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

**CG: Eli and Mandy**

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here’s a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

**SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)**

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!

*Dismiss to small group.*