

ALLEY SG – 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)*

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Story Recap" Page (A few per bin)

What You Do:

- Have your whole group line up shoulder to shoulder facing you.
- Tell them that you will briefly retell the story and every once in a while, ask questions that have one of two answers.
- If the answer to the question is "Simon," direct the kids to jump forward.
- If the answer is "the woman," instruct the kids to jump backwards.
- Read the story and the questions from the "Story Recap" Activity Page.
- After you ask a question, pause to allow the kids to jump forwards or backwards.
- Share the correct answer after everyone has moved.
- After you've revealed the answer, direct the kids to move back to the middle, freeze, and continue to listen to the story until the next question.
- After the story is finished, ask the following questions in order to dive deeper into the story:
 - How do you think Simon felt when Jesus called him out?
 - What motivated the woman's actions when she was at Jesus' feet?
 - Who does the moneylender represent in the parable Jesus told?
 - Did both the borrowers deserve the same forgiveness? Why or why not?

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Plain white cardstock (8 pieces per group), masking tape (a few rolls per bin), markers

What You Do:

- Give a piece of cardstock to eight kids in the group. (*If there are fewer than eight kids in the group, double up and give more than one piece to some kids. If there are more than eight kids, ask some to pair up.*)
- Hand out a few rolls of masking tape for kids to share and explain that they will use the tape to create a big letter on their piece of cardstock.
- Assign each piece of paper a letter in the word E-V-E-R-Y-O-N-E, by whispering into their ear.
 - Be sure to mix up the order as you're assigning them.
- Once everyone knows their letters, ask them to spread out, and to try not to look around at others' projects.
- Give kids a few minutes to use tape to create their letter.
- Instruct them to use the markers to add color to the entire page of cardstock.
- They should paint right over the tape, as if it's part of the cardstock.
- Once kids are finished painting, have them turn them over and come back to the circle.

- Encourage kids to consider the woman who sat at Jesus' feet. Ask these questions for discussion:
 - Do you know people who have done things that need forgiveness? (*Examples could include things like "I heard a kid at school talk back to their teacher" or "My brother lied to my mom when he told her he finished his chores." Be sure to help guide discussion if kids are having trouble coming up with examples.*)
 - Why might you need forgiveness? (*Take this as an opportunity to remind kids how important it is to create a safe place for everyone in the group. If someone shares something personal, be sure to keep it within the group.*)
- Ask kids to carefully pick up the pieces of cardstock and slowly/carefully remove the tape from each piece.
- Once the tape is removed, challenge kids to unscramble the letters as a group.
- Once kids come up with the word "EVERYONE" remind them that everyone needs forgiveness.
 - It can be easy to point the finger and see how others need it. But we need forgiveness, too.
 - Likewise, we should all be willing to forgive others. But we are not expected to do this all on our own. We can rely on God's strength to help us.
 - God will always help us forgive. All we have to do is ask.

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Do you find it hard to forgive someone when they have done something wrong toward you? Why or why not?
- How does it make you feel when you have chosen to forgive someone else?
- What does it feel like when you've done something wrong, and you know you need forgiveness?
- What does it feel like to be forgiven?
- Why does everyone need forgiveness?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Dice (a few per bin), flat mini erasers (25 per group, and one per child to take home), large piece of paper (one per group per service), marker

What You Do:

- On a piece of paper, write the words to Colossians 3:13 so everyone in the group can see it. (It's a long verse, so you can enlist kids to share in the writing responsibilities.)
- Read it out loud once together.
- Invite kids to sit in a circle and place a pile of mini erasers in the center.
- Play a game where kids will take turns rolling the die.
- Whatever number they roll, they will stack that many erasers on top of each other in the center of the circle.
- **With each eraser they place**, they will **say one word** of the verse in order.
- The next person will roll the die, and then will pick up where they left off for the verse and add their erasers to the already existing stack.
- If the stack falls down at any time, the next person in the circle will start a new stack and go back to the beginning of the verse.
- The goal is to try and work as a group to get the entire verse recited without the stack of erasers falling down.
- Repeat as interest and time allow.

- Explain that it may have felt frustrating each time the stack of erasers fell down. They all needed to have forgiveness for the kids who caused the stack to fall. Things will happen in our lives where we have to choose to have forgiveness for others when they mess up. The truth is: Everyone needs forgiveness!
- Allow kids to take **ONE** of the erasers home and explain that it can be a reminder of God's forgiveness and how we ALL need it.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Nothing

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think about anyone in their life that they may need to forgive.
- Encourage them to ask God to help them forgive them.
- Pray for your group.

What You Say:

"Dear God,

Thank You for today's reminder that everyone needs forgiveness. You know each of us, and You are aware of all that we're going through. I ask that You help every kid in this group to forgive those that they need to forgive. Give them your strength to handle difficult situations. Thank You that we can always come to You and rely on you for help. We love You, God. Amen."