

# CITY SG – March 4-6, 2023

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

**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. The Great Race

*Bible Story Review*

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

### What You Do:

- Have your whole group line up shoulder to shoulder facing you.
- Tell them that you will 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 twice.
- If the answer is "the woman," instruct the kids to jump backwards twice.
- 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 questions are done, ask, "What was the one big difference between Simon and the woman in our story?" (*The woman needed Jesus' forgiveness and she knew it. Simon needed Jesus' forgiveness, but he didn't realize it.*)

### What You Say:

"The truth is, [**Bottom Line**] **everyone needs forgiveness.** Just like Simon and the woman in today's Bible story, we all need forgiveness. Even when we're in the middle of our mess, even when we're a work in progress, God still chooses to stay close to us, and God always offers us forgiveness."

## 2. Clap-a-Word

*Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, marker, and blank paper (one per group)

### What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Colossians 3:13 using the navigation tips below if your group is able.

Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "Colossians" in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find "Colossians," lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find "Colossians." Help the kids find the page. When they find "Colossians," explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 13 in chapter 3.

- Read the verse aloud for the kids.
- Focus on the first part of the verse: Put up with one another.
- Write this first phrase of the verse on a piece of paper.
- Direct one kid to turn their back and close their eyes.
- Point to one word in the verse so the rest of the group of kids can see it but instruct them to stay silent.

- Tell the kid to turn around, but do not allow them to see the written phrase.
- Direct the kids to say the first part of the verse but clap on the selected word without saying it.
- Instruct the kid that was turned around to say the word that was skipped.
- If they can't remember, show them the verse and say it together.
- Take turns and choose new volunteers and various words to skip and clap on.
- After kids have memorized the first phrase of the verse, write the next phrase of the verse on the paper.
- Repeat the steps as before until the entire verse is written on the paper.

### What You Say:

"Paul, the author of this verse, encourages us to 'put up with one another.' That means that we should forgive others or show grace to one another. When we put up with one another, we don't expect other people to act perfectly all the time. That would be impossible! People mess up, and we forgive them, just like we've been forgiven.

God forgives EVERYONE. God forgives me, forgives you, forgives our friends, and forgives our neighbors. Since everyone makes mistakes, that means **[Bottom Line] everyone needs forgiveness.** Forgiveness is something God wants to give you if you ask for it!"

## 3. You're Invited!

### Application Activity

**What You Need:** ½ sheet of Cardstock (one per child), crayons or markers, stickers

### What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of someone they'd like to invite to church. (*a family member, neighbor, friend from school, etc.*)
- Set out the paper, crayons or markers, and optional decorating supplies.
- Give each kid a piece of paper, show them how to fold it to make an invitation.
- Direct the kids to create "You're Invited!" cards with the coloring and decorating supplies. (Be ready to help the kids with spelling as needed.)
- **Non-Reader Option:** Have the kids tell you what to write on their card for them and they decorate.

### What You Say:

"Jesus was able to restore peoples' entire lives when He forgave them of their sins. That's why He came!. And one more person got INVITED into God's kingdom! No matter what someone has done, no one is too far from God!

"We can learn how to invite people in, just like Jesus! This week, give this card to invite a family member, neighbor, or friend from school to church. Everyone needs to hear how God loves them and wants to be their friend forever."

## 4. Pray and Dismiss

### Prayer activity

**What You Need:** Sticky notes and pens or pencils

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a sticky note and a pen or pencil.
- Ask the kids to think about something they're praying about (family, friends, school, hopes, etc.).
- Direct the kids to write down what they're praying about on the sticky note.
- They can make more than one if there is time.
- **Non-Reader Option:** Have the kids draw what they are praying about.
- Have each child hold their sticky note(s).

**What You Say:**

“Let’s take a moment to look at your sticky note. No matter who you are, we ALL have something that we’re praying about, and we ALL have made mistakes that we’d like to be forgiven for. Here’s the best news. There’s no mistake that God can’t forgive because nothing is too big for God’s love. Remember that **[Bottom Line] everyone needs forgiveness**. Jesus died to make a way for all of us to be forgiven so that we could live with God now and forever.”

“Let’s pray.

“God, thank You so much for loving us so perfectly. You know everything about us—every thought we’ve ever had, every word we’ve ever said, every mistake we’ve ever made—and You will never stop loving us. Thank You for giving us Jesus so we can be completely forgiven and restored. As we ask for Your forgiveness, help us rewrite our story as we move forward. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”