



Week 5 – Elementary
Additional Resources for Parents

Jesus Talks About Forgiveness: Luke 7:40-50

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

⁴¹ “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Talking point for Bible Passage:

Let’s say I borrowed one dollar from one of you and I used it, but then I couldn’t pay you back because I didn’t have any money. **Would you be annoyed?** Probably. But it’s only a dollar. You would probably even say I didn’t have to pay you back. But let’s say I borrowed \$100 from you. And I spent it on stuff I didn’t even need. **What would you be more upset about, the one dollar or the \$100?** But then let’s say that (Mom/Dad) said not to pay you back at all! **What’s more shocking – letting go of one dollar or \$100?** The people in today’s Bible story were upset at the woman because they thought she wasn’t a very good person, and she was taking up so much of Jesus’ time and attention. **But what did Jesus say to that?** Jesus makes the point that the person who had been forgiven for a bigger thing (like owing more money) would be even more grateful than the person who had been forgiven for a smaller thing (like owing less money). Jesus knew the woman really needed a lot of forgiveness, and she

was so thankful Jesus gave it to her!

Have you ever done something wrong or hurt someone and then felt bad about it?

That's because even though God made us for greatness, sometimes we mess up and do things God doesn't want us to do. That's why we all need God to forgive us. And the good news is, God does!

Activity: Worst Kept Secret

Give each child a white piece of paper and ask the kids to write **"God forgives me"** with a white crayon in whatever way they want on the paper. Afterward, ask the kids to color with marker or paint everywhere on the paper. If using paint hang the paper up to dry. I know we made the hidden message pop out of paper using paint/markers, but it really is no secret. God forgives us. And we should let everyone know it!

ACTIVITY: Practice Forgiveness

Print out the attached printable and cut it out. Put each of the pieces of paper into a hat or a container. Have kids take turns picking a piece of paper and describing what they would say and/or do to show true forgiveness in each of the situations.

Which of these situations was the hardest for you to forgive? Which was the easiest? Why?

REFLECTION: Forgiveness for What?

Put some soft music on in the background. Have the children move around the room a little bit, and tell them they get three minutes to think about things they want to ask God to forgive. Offer examples beforehand. God can forgive when we are mean to our siblings, when we don't respect our guardians, when we cheat on a quiz or test, when we lie to a friend, when we don't try our best. Give kids a few minutes to think about what they need God to forgive them for. **No matter how good we are, we still mess up. When we think about it, we can all think of things we do that hurt God and hurt people and even hurt ourselves. So, we need forgiveness, don't we? This is why our Big Idea today is so important. God forgives me and God forgives you, too!**

Your little sister broke your favorite toy.

Your friend didn't stick up for you when someone teased you.

Your friend made fun of your new haircut.

Your parents accidentally threw away something you've been collecting for months.

Somebody bumped into you and caused you to spill milk all over yourself.

A classmate took all the credit for your group project when it was actually your idea.

Your brother tattled on you about something to your parents and you got in trouble.

Your best friend started hanging out with the new kid and spends less time with you.
