



WEEK 5

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

REVEALED

BIG IDEA

God forgives me.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Talks About Forgiveness: Luke 7:40-50;
(Romans 3:23; Hebrews 10:17)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | "I'm Sorry, It's Okay"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This is basically a variation of "Marco Polo." Ask one kid to wear a blindfold and try to find the rest of the group. The student that is "it" says, "I'm sorry," and the rest of the group has to say, "It's okay!" The game continues until the kid that is "it" finds everyone. Another way to play would be to have only one or two kids at a time run away/hide.*
- **When are some times we tell someone we're sorry? Why do we say, "It's okay" when someone says they're sorry?** Often times, we say "I'm sorry" and "It's okay" because we have to, and not because we really want or offer forgiveness. Today, we are going to learn what God wants us to know about forgiveness.

ACTIVITY | Gold Rush

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hide a lot of "treasure" (such as the gold coins from last week's Bible story, pennies, gold foil candies, flat metallic beads, metal buttons, etc.) around your home.*
- Guess what? Today, we have a treasure hunt for you! That's right — you get to find oodles and oodles of treasure. But I don't have any treasure! So, anytime I come to any of you and say, "May I borrow some treasure?" you have to give me five pieces of treasure!
- **Did you think it was fair that I asked you for your treasure? How come?**



- **How did you feel when I didn't give it back after I "borrowed" it?**
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Let your preteens hide the coins. They could even be the ones to go around and ask kids for their treasure, to make it more interesting.*

POLL | I-O-U

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a few of the following items (or images of them): LEGO blocks, different kinds of candy, or slime. (These can double as prizes for later, if you'd like!)*
- Let's pretend someone borrowed a hundred dollars from you, but couldn't pay you back. Instead, they said they could give you a lifetime supply of the following: LEGO, candy, or slime. Which would you choose? Why?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Revealed, Episode 5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

BIBLE STORY | Luke 7:40-50.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show [this video](#) of Luke 7:40-50.*
- Let's say I borrowed one dollar from one of you. **Who wants to pretend to lend me a dollar (Select a volunteer)?** Okay, thank you, _____. So, I took this dollar from _____ and I used it, but then I couldn't pay him/her back because I didn't have any money. Would s/he be annoyed? Probably. But it's only a dollar. S/he would probably even say I didn't have to pay her/him back. But let's say I borrowed \$100 from that same person. 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 _____ said not to pay him/her 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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each group a small canvas or white art paper and ask the kids to write "God forgives me" with a white crayon in whatever way they want on the canvas. Afterward, ask the kids to paint everywhere on the canvas (Markers are an*



acceptable alternative, but paint is more exciting and dramatic). Hang the complete Big Idea reveal art up to dry.

- I know we made the hidden message pop out of canvas/paper using paint, but it really is no secret. **God forgives us.** And we should let everyone know it!
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Model to the students with special needs precisely how to do each step of this activity. Help them to have fun with their artwork, and engage students in conversation to talk about what they drew. Prompt other students and peer buddies to make encouraging comments about everyone's art.*

SCRIPTURE | Romans 3:23; Hebrews 10:17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Romans 3:23, then show [this video](#) (or another like it that explains this verse). Queue up Hebrews 10:17 for later.*
- Yes, it's sad that everyone sins. But God found a way to forgive us of all our sins by sending Jesus to save us. And once we receive God's forgiveness, the Bible says (*read Hebrews 10:17*). That's right – God's not even going to remember our wrongdoing. Isn't that amazing?

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Forgiveness for What?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put some soft music on in the background: You could ask a musician within your ministry to play live, or try some of these [chill worship songs](#) or even pick some classical pieces, like [Bach's Chorale Cantatas](#), to play quietly. Invite the kids to 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!
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *It's possible you may find it difficult to engage kids with special needs in this reflection activity, but don't get discouraged! Even though they may not follow exactly, your words never return void. In activities like this, 1) present clear, explicit directions, 2) let them know what they're expected to do, 3) model how to do it, 4) guide them at each step of the activity.*

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split your kids into two teams (or choose two kids to play up front). Ask them to go back and forth, quoting the verse one word at a time. The first person to forget a word is out.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why were the people in the story mad at the woman?**
- **Why do you think the woman was so happy and grateful to be around Jesus?**
- **Why did Jesus tell the story of the two men who owed different amounts of money?**
- **Re-read Romans 3:23. Who needs God's forgiveness?**
- **How does it feel when you know you've done something wrong or hurt someone?**
- **Describe a time when you needed forgiveness.**
- **Why do you think forgiveness is important?**