

Quarter 2: God the Son — Lesson 23



Year 1—Quarter 2: God the Son

Jesus Forgave Sins

Bible Study:

Today we are going to talk about forgiveness. To help us understand Jesus' power to forgive, we are going to act out Matthew 9:2-8. (*Choose people to act out the part as you read the story. The characters needed are Jesus, 2 friends, paralytic, and teachers of the law*). Kids, did you notice that in the story, Jesus forgave the man's sins before He healed him? Why do you think that is? It is more important to forgive sin than to heal someone. The spiritual health of a person is more important than his/her physical health. Because Jesus was God's Son, He could forgive his sins and make him well spiritually. Everyone think of a time when you did something bad and someone forgave you. Didn't it feel good to be forgiven! Since, Jesus has forgiven us of our sin, we need to forgive others when they do something wrong towards us. We are told to "forgive as the Lord forgave us." (Col. 3:13) Forgiving not only shows others that we love them

but it testifies about the amazing forgiveness we have been given from Christ. The Bible says that we have all sinned Romans 3:23 but Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross in our place. Because he died and rose again, we can be forgiven of our sins. Because we have been forgiven of so much, we should forgive others. How many of you have heard the parable of the unmerciful servant? Mat. 18:21-35. Well there was a servant who owed a lot of money, and his master forgave him his debt. Then the servant went out and demanded the little amount of money that another servant owed him. The master heard about this and had him thrown into prison for not forgiving the other servant. The lesson is that because God forgave us of our huge debt, we need to forgive others.

Power Point

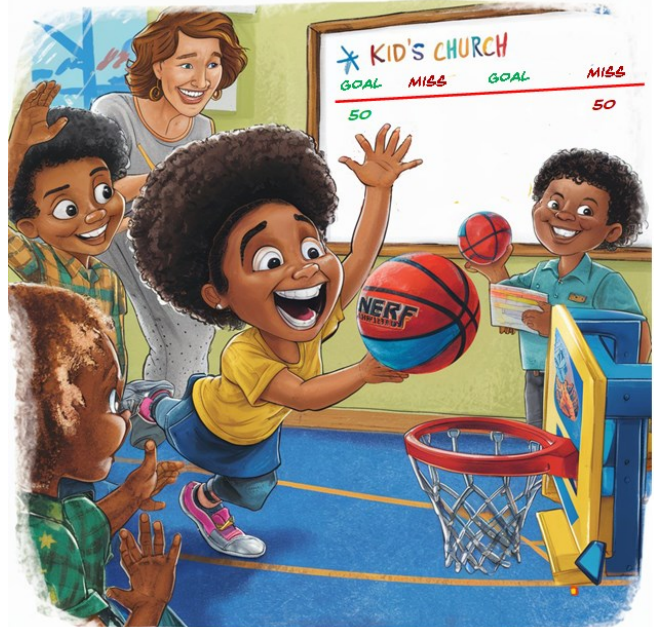
Jesus forgave sin so we also need to forgive.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

Game: Debt B-Ball

Pick 2 volunteers to come and play this game. Have a basketball hoop set up and a basketball. (*You may use bean bags and a waste basket.*) Tell the children that for every basket they make, they get 50 points but for every one basket they miss, 50 are taken away. They each get ten shots and you will be keeping score on the whiteboard. Once the children have each shot 10 times. Tell them how much they owe or gained. If they are in debt tell them that "Since today we are going to be talking about forgiveness, I'll forgive you your debt and you won't owe anything." Then wipe the board clean. (This game also works with teams of kids.)





Story: Brandon's Mess

There once was a dad who had a three-year-old son named Brandon. One day, Brandon sees his dad eating chocolate chip cookies in the living room and says to himself, *Daddy loves chocolate chip cookies with milk. So I'm going to give Daddy a glass of milk.* With that thought Brandon goes into the dining room and drags a chair from the dining room into the kitchen, leaving a trail of scratch marks on the floor. Brandon climbs up on the chair and hitches himself onto the counter to pull at the cabinet door. Wham! It smashes against the adjacent cabinet door, leaving a gash where the handle hit it. Brandon reaches for a glass, accidentally knocking two others off the shelf. Crash! Tinkle, tinkle! But Brandon doesn't care. He's thinking, *I'm going to get Daddy some milk!* Meanwhile, Brandon's dad is watching all this, wondering if he should step in and save the rest of his kitchen. He decides, for the moment, to watch a little more as Brandon scrambles off the chair, dodging the pieces of broken glass, and heads for the refrigerator. Pulling violently on the refrigerator door, Brandon flings it wide open — and it stays open, of course. Brandon puts the glass on the floor (out of harm's way, supposedly) and grabs, not the little half gallon of milk, but the big gallon container that is full of milk. He rips open the top, pours it in the vicinity of the glass, and even manages to get some milk in the glass. The rest goes all over the floor. Finally done, Brandon puts the milk carton on the floor and picks up the glass yelling, "Daddy, I got something for you!" He runs into the living room, trips, and spills milk all over the place — the floor, the sofa, his dad. Brandon stands up and looks around. Now he sees broken glass, milk everywhere, cabinets open, his dad with milk from his eyebrows to his toes, and starts to cry. Through his tears, he looks up at his dad with the pained expression that says, "What are you going to do to me?" His

dad only smiles. He doesn't see a kid that just destroyed his house. Instead he sees a beautiful little boy whom he loves very much. It doesn't matter what he's done. Brandon's dad stretches his arms out to hold his little boy tight and says, "This is my son!"

Application: When we talk about God as our Father, the kind of father we're talking about is Brandon's father. God is a father who loves us unconditionally, even though we make a real mess of things. Jesus told a similar story about another son who messed up. We call the story "The Prodigal Son." It also could be called "The Parable of the Loving Father" because, just like Brandon's Dad did, the father in the story threw his arms around his son and said, "This is my son!" (To read this story from the Bible, see Luke 15:11-32.)



Brandon's Mess



How 2 pray



Forgive us our sins.



as we forgive others...

Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

Matthew 9:1-8

Main Point:

Jesus has the power to forgive sins.

Discuss:

Q: What did Jesus say first to the paralytic in Mt. 9?

A: "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Q: What did forgiving the paralytic's sin prove?

A: It proved He was the Son of God.

Q: Why should we forgive?

A: Because Jesus forgave us.

Gospel Connection: Jesus Christ died on the Cross, bearing the punishment for humanity's sins, and in doing so, God the Father forgave all people for all time.

Explore the Bible

Read Matthew 9:1-8

Ask: Jesus saw that the man was paralyzed, so why did He first say, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." ?

After your family discusses possible reasons, say: Jesus forgave the man's sins because he knew that the man's biggest problem wasn't his physical paralysis, but his spiritual sickness. Jesus came to heal not just bodies, but also souls. By forgiving the man's sins, Jesus was showing him that he was loved and accepted, just as he was.

Journal Time

Have your child/children write answers to the following questions in their journals. (If they have no journals, consider helping them begin one.)

- What does this lesson teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this lesson teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in these passages to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in these passages to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this lesson help me to live on mission better?

Apply and Pray

We can learn that Jesus is not just a helper, but a Savior who can forgive our sins and heal our souls. We can also learn the importance of having faith in Jesus, just like the paralyzed man's friends did. When we have faith in Jesus, we can trust that he will forgive us and help us become the best versions of ourselves.

Lead your family in a simple prayer of asking God for His forgiveness for any sins they have committed: whether sins they have spoken, thought, or done.