Forgiveness

Lesson Introduction

As a child I used to play the game “Last Hit” with my brother and sisters. One child hits another, shouting, “Last hit,” while running to get away before the other child can hit them back. Then the other child races after them to hit them back. With our family it would often end only by one crying or getting hurt, or our parents stepping in to end the game.

This was a **“NO WIN”** game. Neither the last one to hit, nor the child that gets hit truly wins. The child who is hit last is always on the lookout to see how they can hit the other child so that they are no longer the last child to have been hit.

When God becomes involved in the games of our life, He changes the rules. He said, “If someone hits you on the left cheek, give them your right one to hit also. Matt. 5:39 ” Wow! He just ended the “Last Hit” game. He who follows Christ simply by Christ-like action turns and says, “Yes, you hit last.” It’s time for us to end some games. We all need to forgive others for hitting us, and we need forgiveness for the hits we have made against others.

Flash Point

Forgiveness: I need it.
& I need to give it.

LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

Memory Verse

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Luke 11:4

Flash Point

Forgiveness: I need it.
& I need to give it.

PREPARATION LIST

Prepare all songs and story pictures. Trace and color the songs and pictures onto transparencies or larger pieces of paper. If any items are not available, attempt to locate acceptable substitutions.

Welcome: Mad Scientist (MS) costume
National Anthem: National flag
Game #1: Balloons
Game #2: Popcorn, thread, needle.
Special Emphasis:
Offering: Containers for offering
Announcements: Flyers for next meeting
Lesson Introduction: Poster paper, etc.
Memory Verse: Transparency or posterboard
Bible Story: Construction tools
Object Lesson #1: Posterboard material
Object Lesson #2: Candy coated chocolate
Object Lesson #3: Small candy
Object Lesson #4: A batterry operated toy

Kids Club Rally

Welcome:
KIDS Rules
Prayer _____
National Anthem _____
Theme Song _____
Praise Songs _____
Review Questions #1 _____
Game #1 Hot Air Race
Review Questions #2 _____
Game #2 Tastes Beautiful...
Special Emphasis
Offering _____

Worship _____
Special Ministry _____
Announcements _____
Lesson Introduction 4Giving
Flash Point: Forgiveness:
Memory Verse Luke 11:4
Bible Story Broken Walls
Object lesson #1 What Color?
Object lesson #2 Just A Little
Object lesson #3 ‘D’ Worms
Object lesson #4 Flip ‘D’ Switch
Story Time The Circus Wagon
Ending Prayer

FORGIVING

Welcome

Props: Mad Scientist **(MS)** costume.
Preparation: Dress a volunteer to look like a mad scientist. (Be creative.) Fill his pockets, and perhaps a bag full of fours, this could include a large number four, also 4 pieces of; rice, rocks, marbles, crayons, etc. Write the lesson title **"Forgiving"** on a piece of paper.
Presentation: Leader welcomes the children. **Mad Scientist** comes out, interrupting takes over. He's laughing with noises, announces to the leader and audience. Ha, ha! I did it again, I read your lesson notes and I already know it all. **Leader:** Interrupts the Mad Scientist. "Thank you **MS** for coming today, I remember how you messed up on the **"Careful"** lesson, you thought it was **"Car Full."** Are you sure you have this weeks lesson right? What is our lesson about? **MS:** It is about being *four giving*. So I looked around and brought all my fours for the lesson. Look, see I am *four giving*! He opens his pockets and begins giving away the items of four's. **Leader:** Shouts to a helper for them to bring today's lesson notes. As he examines today's lesson he says to the MS. Wait a minute. You did it again. Hold up the paper with the lesson title **"FORGIVING"** written on it. (Encourage the audience to read the title out loud). It is not about being **"4 giving,**" It is about being **"forgiving."** You misread it. **MS:** Looks at the lesson, gives an embarrassed cough and says, Oops guess I prepared for the wrong lesson. Sorry, bye. I'd better go now. **MS** exits. **Leader:** Kids the **MS** just showed us how important it is to be **forgiving**. He made a mistake, but we will forgive him. It's a lot more fun to forgive than to get angry. We all need to practice being **forgiving**. That is what today's lesson is about. Let's learn more about being forgiving. First let's pray.

Opening Prayer

Suggested prayer:

Dear Jesus,
You see our problems and you care so much for us. Thank you for forgiving us the wrong things we do when we ask your forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

National Anthem
Kids Rules
Praise Songs
Review Questions

1. What was last weeks memory verse?
2. What was last weeks flash point?
3. What did the Mad Scientist think the lesson was about? Car full.
4. What can happen if a bee loses its stinger? It can die.

Game #1
Hot Air Race

Props: Balloons.
Preparation:
Participants: Four contestants.
Game Rules: Very simple. They each receive a balloon and release it. The person who's balloon travels the greatest distance forward is declared the winner. Little or no skill required, just hot air. You may want to extend the game by having the best out of three declared the winner. Have fun. If a tie, have a play off.

[Warning: Balloons are not for small children to play with because of the possibility of suffocation.]

[As with any games, feel free to replace or modify at your discretion.]

Review Questions

Complete the memory verses.

1. Do not be fooled: Bad company corrupts good character. I Corinthians 15:33
2. To obey the Lord is better than sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. I Samuel 15:22

3. There was a disciple named Dorcas, who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36
4. A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22

Game #2
Tastes Beautiful Looks Delicious

Props: Popcorn, thread, large needles.
Preparation: Make popcorn without salt or flavoring.
[Warning: Play safe, keep sharp objects away from small children.]
Players: Four players.
Playing: Distribute the popcorn, needle and thread to the contestants. The object of the game is to see who can make the longest string of popcorn in the shortest period of time. Then award them with their creation to enjoy.

Offering
Children in Special Ministry
Worship
Announcements

Lesson Introduction
4 Giving
Matthew 6:12-14

Props: Poster paper, Bible.
Preparation: Write **"4 GIVING"** on a piece of paper, on the back of it write **"FORGIVING."**
Presentation: Earlier the Mad Scientist tried to tell us that our lesson was about **"FOUR GIVING" (hold up the sign)**. He had, fours and items of four that he was trying to give away.
The mad scientist is not the only one who misunderstands what forgiving is all about. Flip the sign over showing the word **"FORGIVING."** Some would like you to believe forgiveness is for the weak. Instead of forgiving, some people think that getting back, or getting even is the best thing to do. That's what you will see in most popular movies. Somebody hurts someone so that person hurts them back. Let's try an honesty test. We'll start with everyone sitting down including me. (Encourage full audience participation). Now if you have ever lied to someone, stand up. OK. Sit down. If you have ever stolen or taken something that was not yours, stand up. OK. Sit down. If you have ever talked bad or mean to another person, stand up OK. We may sit down. See how many of us, including myself, have done wrong things. The Bible says we have all sinned. So that means all of us need forgiveness. Now let's try it again.
How many of us have had someone lie to us, stand up. OK. Now sit down. If you have ever had someone steal or take something from you that was not theirs, stand up. OK. Sit down. If you have ever had someone talk bad or mean about you, stand up OK. We may sit down. See how many of us, including myself, have both done wrong things and had wrong things done to us. Jesus taught His followers in prayer about forgiveness. (Have group repeat with you the Lord's Prayer). When you get to the part in verse 12 of asking God to forgive our debts remind the kids that if they want forgiveness that they also need to forgive. **Flash Point: Forgivness: I need it & I need to give it.**

Memory Verse

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Luke 11:4

Props: Transparency or poster of today's scripture verse. It can be used as a coloring page for the class or as a take home item.
Preparation: Practice and become familiar with today's memory verse. Recommend using the music provided on the Kids Praise and Worship tape.
Presentation: Practice the Scripture verse.

God created us to love Him. If we love God then when we act selfishly and disobey Him we will go to Him and ask His forgiveness. Will God forgive us, if we ask Him? (Encourage audience response.) Of course He will forgive us if we ask Him. One thing we need to remember, if we do not forgive those who have done wrong things to us, the Bible says, we are to also forgive those who sin against us

(Teachers Note: Take a moment and briefly explain this to your audience. Forgiveness does not necessarily mean forgetfulness. God can forgive and forget our sins, but it is not always possible to forget the sins others have committed against us.)

Practice the **Memory Verse: Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Luke 11:4 Flash Point: Forgiveness: I need it & I need to give it.**

Quiet Seat Time

Bible Story

Broken Walls

Nehemiah

Props: Construction tools, wooden sword, blocks, work clothes, food.

Preparation: Read Nehemiah to familiarize yourself with today's Bible story. Perhaps a block of wood to use for pounding on to emphasize a point of the Bible Story.

Introduction: Leader comes out dressed as a construction worker. (Hold a tool and use it as a pointer for attracting attention, such as a saw or hammer. What was Nehemiah doing for Jerusalem? (Encourage audience response.) He was rebuilding the walls.

(While explaining what happened to Jerusalem, take blocks and build a wall on a table.) The reason the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed was because His people had forgotten to serve God. As a result God punished the people of Jerusalem, the city and its walls were destroyed. (Knock over the wall on the table.) The people of Israel became captives of another nation.

About seventy years later Nehemiah and others who loved God began to ask God to forgive them and their people. God heard their prayers and forgave their sins. He also made it so that the people could go home, back to Jerusalem. The people worked hard to rebuild the walls.

The Bible tells us that Nehemiah, was one of God's people. His grandparents had been taken from Jerusalem and were captives in Babylon and Persia. Nehemiah, had grown up in that country. He was educated there but he learned about God from his family. He cared for his people. One time for several days, he ate no food and spent time to pray for his people and Jerusalem. (Sit down, have someone come and offer you some food (perhaps chips, and a cola)). Nehemiah refused all food and prayed with tears. He confessed his sins, and the sins of his people, asking God to forgive them. Does God hear us when we ask for forgiveness? (Encourage audience response). (Knock on the wooden block with the hammer.) Of course God hears us when we pray.

When we sin, we need to ask forgiveness. If someone sins against us we need to forgive them. We can also pray for our family. If we see a brother, sister, mother or father doing something wrong, we can privately talk to God and ask His forgiveness for our sins and of our family. This pleases God.

We cannot control others. If they choose to disobey God, it is like planting seeds, that will grow up and the person who plants a life filled with sin will have to pay the price of sin. Yet if we come to God and ask forgiveness, He is so happy to reach out to us and to forgive us. (Pull out the wooden sword). The people in Jerusalem, did not go out to take a sword to kill the people who captured them. Instead they built a wall to protect, and prayed to God for His forgiveness and protection. God in your heart is a wall of protection. If someone has hurt you forgive them, just as you need forgiveness. **Flash Point: Forgiveness: I need it & I need to give it.**

LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

Object Lesson #1
What Color?

Props: Posterboard, material.
Preparation: Draw a circle on both sides of a posterboard. (Make sure the one side is not visible through the paper.) On one side color the dot black on the other color the paper leaving the dot white. Other objects can be substituted to demonstrate this same lesson. Keep the item out of sight until ready to be viewed.
Participants: Leader and two volunteers. Act out the lesson.
Presentation: Two classmates were always arguing and fighting with each other. One day the teacher called the classmates forward and placed an object between them and ask them to tell the teacher what was the color of the object. (At this point bring up two volunteers, show them the poster board, only allowing them to view from their individual sizes. Encourage them to answer with feeling.) The two boys answered with totally different answers, beginning to argue with each other including calling each other names.
One said, "It's black." The other said, "It's white." Then the teacher, had them switch sides. It was then they realized that the object was a different color on the other side. The teacher then explained that we should be slow to judge until we have stood in the other persons shoes. **Flash Point: Forgiveness: I need it & I need to give it.**

Object Lesson #2
Just a Little

Props: Candy coated chocolate, or acceptable substitute (m&m's ™).
Participants: Leader and audience.
Presentation: Hold up the small candy. People sometimes do strange things.
There is a certain set of diet pills that are guaranteed to help a person lose weight. Inside the first little pill is the eggs of the tapeworm.
If a person eats that little pill the tapeworms will hatch out inside their stomach and intestines. Demonstrate, by swallowing the little candy. (Make sure to tell the kids, it is just a candy and not medicine). The tapeworms, eat the persons food and lays more eggs making more tapeworms, which in turn take more food or nutrients from the person they live in. If the tapeworms continue living in a person or animal, the person or animal can become sick and even die. If it is a child the tapeworms are living in the child and will often remain small because the worm is stealing important food which would help the child to grow.
The people who sell the diet pill, sell them in pairs. When the person who took the pill has lost the weight they want to lose they have to take the second pill which is poison for the worms. That pill is to kill all the eggs and live tapeworms. I do not recommend this as a good weight loss program nor do most doctors.
If we do not forgive people who sin (do something bad to us) it is similar to taking one of those tapeworm pills. What happens with the diet pill if it has the tapeworm eggs inside? (Encourage audience response.) Yes the eggs hatch. How can I get rid of the tape worms? (Encourage audience response.) 'Yes,' I have to take the second pill, the one with the poison in it which will kill the tapeworms. If we do not take the pill to kill the tapeworm we can get sick and even die. (Demonstrate by swallowing a second small candy).
If we do not forgive someone, unforgiveness becomes bitterness. Bitterness at someone will grow, and if allowed to grow will destroy the person it grows in. The only way to kill the worm or root of bitterness is to forgive those who hurt you and to allow God to destroy and kill the worm or root of bitterness inside you. I do not want to be destroyed because someone else did something bad to me, and I won't forgive them. Forgiving people is not always easy, especially if they really hurt you. It is God who will help you to forgive if you ask Him to.

(Open time for teachers testimony, (or a helpers) of someone who stole or hurt them and how God helped you to forgive them.)
Flash Point: Forgiveness: I need it & I need to give it.

Object Lesson #3
'D' Worms

Props: Small candy, plastic or real worm(s).
Preparation: There is a candy called gummy worms. **Note:** Some grown-ups shy away from these, but to kids, it is a way of having fun, making a point, or communicating. Just look at the variety of candies created for sale to kids. If this is not available, or you desire to adapt or omit this or any object lesson, no problem. **Remember:** You are the final filter to present the Gospel to your group. Whatever you do, do it for the King and His kids with all of your strength.
Presentation: Bring out a small bowl with the candy worms inside. Comment on how delicious worms are, and that you have a container of them you really want to eat. Dramatize it! Act out the worms crawling and wiggling about in the bowl. Finally reach in and pull one out quickly popping it into your mouth. Ask if anyone else is really hungry and wants to join your feast. (Smile). Go ahead and share with those in your audience who might want to take part.
(We use the drama and the laughter to assist in emphasizing the truth. Jesus repeatedly used dramatic illustrations in order to capture attention. The camel through the eye of the needle. Casting a mountain into the sea, etc.
Most people do not around eating worms. But many people are not living godly lives either. When the Bible tells us we are to forgive those who do bad things to us, it is in many ways a hard teaching. (Inserting your own example is good). When the bully at school came up and hit me, the last thing I felt like doing was forgiving him. It was my practice to fight back.
One day when I was about ten years old, God spoke to my heart through a sermon my dad preached. God told me I needed to learn how to turn the other cheek and to forgive people rather than fighting back. Ouch! I said, "Yes," to God and no to fighting back. God began to change me. It was not easy for a tough ten year old to stop fighting but it was the right thing to do. Today, God uses me in helping people. That is so much better than hurting people. **Flash Point: Forgiveness: I need it & I need to give it.**

Object Lesson #4
Flip 'D' Switch

Props: A battery operated light or musical toy.
Preparation: Secure fresh batteries, wrapped in plastic.
Presentation: Hold up the battery operated item. (We used a special flashlight with different colors. Many toys with light or sound can demonstrate this lesson.) We have sinned. There is no question about it. The Bible tells us, everyone of us have sinned. Let's check. If you have sinned, raise your hand. (Encourage all in the audience to raise their hand (including the teacher). If anyone did not raise their hand they are telling a lie so they are part of the group of sinners as well. Since we have sinned, we need God to forgive us. If we ask His forgiveness He will forgive us.
Look at this light. (Insert name of object you have prepared.) This is one special light it can give off many different colors through the fiber optic cables on the top of it. This light wont work unless I put in batteries. (Take out the package of batteries.) Of course I don't have to put in the batteries, I don't even have to flip the switch and turn it on. Yes, the batteries can make the special light shine but I don't have to turn it on. Why should I forgive someone if they hurt me. I don't have to. No one can make me. But if I want my light to shine for Jesus I will have to obey Jesus and forgive those who hurt me. Put the batteries in the light. Turn it on. How about you? Are you going to shine for Jesus? Let's talk to Jesus right now.

LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

Suggested prayer:
Dear Jesus, Please forgive my sins, of all the times I've disobeyed you. Jesus, please help me to forgive those who hurt me. Please help me to shine like a light for you. Help me to live for you doing what you want me to do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Flash Point: Forgiveness: I need it & I need to give it.

Story Time
The Circus Wagon

A story/parable based on a true story. Written by Ken Blatchley.

Picture 25:1 At the young age of nine, a boys life was given to serve the King. He offered his life in service to the one who is the Maker. Many other boys have done the same at the age of nine. This one was special. He had a mind for doing the will of the Father. He was and is never a faker. The Prince commanded him to reach out. So he did. The Prince taught him the ways of his people. The Prince looked to the King who smiled.

Picture 25:2 The Soul cutter had seen it and went into an evil pout. The Father of lies in other's hearts, lies he hid. He hated true believers, God's people. The lazy believer's hearts he got riled. The Prince gave the boy an old wagon. On the side of the wagon was painted a child crying. The Princes eyes held deep sorrow as he gazed at the painting. They both wept together. The boy wept at the sight of the tears on the Princes face.
He set it in his heart to try to comfort the crying child in the painting.

Picture 25:3 The boy went in search for some paint. Many years passed and he never stopped looking and searching for the right paint. Finally the Prince came again to the wagon and said, "The time has come." He left behind a few cans of paint. On one can of paint was a label saying "Comfort." The man who once was the boy, opened the can to find it bright golden yellow.

Picture 25:4 The man had no paint brushes so he used his hands. Long painful hours were spent covering the old wagon. Every time the man would dip his hands in the paint someone would always try to stop him from painting the old wagon.
The paint comforted the man as he worked and it gave him strength to carry on. When the first can was empty he went to open another. The Soul cutter tried to intervene and stop him. The Father of lies sent a man of high standing to lie about the man. The first blow was dealt. The man suffered very little because some of the "Comfort" paint had soaked into his hands as he had painted. The blow had been dealt though. Now many thought the man had bad kids.

Picture 25:5 The lie crept into the minds of others. The evil Devil laughed.
The man didn't stop for in his mind, all he could see was the Prince's tears. He opened the next can of paint. "Happiness" was on the label. The man painted happy faces on the wagon with his fingers.The man cried out in pain every time he cut himself on the slivers of the wagon. His blood and the child's tears mixed as he painted a clowns face. Clowns are to be servants of all. To care more for others than oneself. The Father of all evil saw the man's strength and wanted to break him. He ordered the Proud to ship him away from where his heart was. The Proud believers shipped him to a small island and continued to lie to the True believers.

Picture 25:6 The True believers looked at the man and his family and saw the truth. The man's heart was torn by being moved from the place of his hearts calling, Yet all he could see were the tears. He had painted happiness, love, forgiveness, perseverance, truth, grace, obedience, and many more colors, and cans of paint, onto the wagon. Finally, it was done. The man had learned the lessons to take the circus wagon on the road.

Picture 25:7 The Proud believers laughed and said it would never roll. The man did not listen and he climbed onto the top of the wagon. By the grace of God the wheels started to inch forward. As it inched forward children began to come running to watch and learn from the man with the circus wagon.

There was a music that came from the circus wagon that drew the children to hear the stories of the King.

Picture 25:8 Thousands upon thousands ran to hear the stories the man on the circus wagon was teaching. He told about the Prince and the King and how He loved them. The children listened. The Proud, Lazy, Weak, and Mean believers saw and envied the man. The True believers loved the man for the pain he had to go through to get it started.

Picture 25:9 One of the Proud believers came and in envy tried to push the man off of the wagon. The Proud believer was but a child compared to the man. He wanted not to help the children who listened, but to see how fast he could drive the wagon. The Proud believer didn't care who or what the wagon hit on the way. He just wanted to have the people see his proud face. The Proud believer could not get on the wagon for he was blinded. He could not see the multitude of angels guarding the wagon.

LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

Picture 25:10 While the little nine year old boy, now a man continued the work the Prince gave him to do. The Proud man could not see the Prince's tears. He was blind. In his heart he cursed the man and proclaimed to the world his anger.

He vowed to beat the man in the old circus wagon by building his own. He shall build one of the things of the world. In the same way that the world falls so shall he. No pity can be put on him. He blinded himself. In the end so shall it all be for those who are blind. If you are nine, or eight, or ten or even eleven. If you chose to follow the King. Be warned the road is not easy, but it is worth it.

The King is calling for kids to come and follow him will you say yes? When the attacks come, stand on the Bible's promises, Romans 8: 28. "We know that all things work together for the good of them that love God." Sometimes it is our very love of God that singles us out for attack but continue to praise and serve God! In Him we are more than overcomers.

Allow the blows of hard times to do their work. If you're solidly built on the Rock, when the rains and winds pass, you'll still be there shining brightly for the King your God.

Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Sample Prayer

"Lord, help me please to make sure I am forgiven by you. Please Lord help me to be forgiving of the wrongs that others do to me. Thank you, in Jesus' Name I pray." Amen.