



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God's Creation Is Grrreat!  
Fall Year 2, Lesson 15

# Forgive Us Our Debts

**Bible Event:** Matthew 18:21-35

**Take Home Point:** \*GOD FORGIVES ME – *I forgive others.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** God forgives us because Jesus paid our debt on the cross.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn how important it is to forgive. God sent Jesus so our sins would be forgiven. Just as we share God's love with others, so should we share God's forgiveness with others. Kids will take home the point: **\*GOD FORGIVES ME – *I forgive others.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Choose a video and list it here.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: A Visit From The Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

**Here is a true event from the Bible. One day Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, asked Jesus about how to forgive other people. Jesus explained that it is very important to forgive others and told Peter this story.**

**There once was a king (show a crown) who was very wealthy and had many servants. One of his servants owed him a lot of money. (Show a bag or container with lots of play money or coins.) The king sent for the servant and wanted the servant to pay him back all of the money he owed. The servant didn't have any money to give the king.**

**Since the servant could not pay, the king ordered that the servant, his wife, and his whole family be sold. Then the king could get some of the money back.**

**The servant was scared! He fell on his knees crying and begging the king not to do it! He said, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back everything I owe."**

**The king felt sorry for the servant and said, “Okay, I forgive you. I will cancel the debt you owe me, and you may go free.”**

**The servant left the king and was walking down the street when he ran into another servant of the king. This man had borrowed a little bit of money from the servant. *(Show a small amount of play money or coins.)* He only owed the servant this much. The servant grabbed the man and started to choke him, yelling “Pay back what you owe me!”**

**The man fell on his knees and begged the servant, “Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything.” But the servant wouldn’t listen. He had the man thrown into jail until the debt could be paid.**

**When the other servants saw what had happened, they went and told the king. The king called the servant back in and said, “You wicked servant, I cancelled your debt and let you go free because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have done the same for the man who owed you money?” Then the king had him thrown in prison until he paid back all of the money he owed him. *(Show large bag of money again.)***

**When Jesus had finished telling the story to Peter, he told him “If you do not forgive others from your heart for what they do wrong, neither will your heavenly Father God forgive you.”**

**Remember, \*GOD FORIGVES ME – *I forgive others.***



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** Have two large bowls, one filled with popcorn and one with only one piece of popcorn. Explain that the full bowl is how much God forgives us. Have children share God's forgiveness by dipping a paper cup into the popcorn and pouring it into their neighbor's dish.

**Drama Zone:** Re-enact the story using props.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of God "Forgive Our Debts."

**Craft Zone:** Make refrigerator magnet crosses. Glue craft sticks into crosses ahead of time. Have children decorate the crosses with confetti, glitter, or sequins. Attach a pre-made label or cut-out cardstock saying "God forgives me – I forgive others." Attach a magnet to the back of the cross.

**Play Zone:** Play a parachute game. Throw several balls onto the parachute, and the kids should make them bounce as much as possible. Each time a ball bounces is like a time that God forgives us – it's constant.

**Puppet Zone:** Have puppets act out situations in which one needs to forgive the other. Explain that forgiveness means not getting even.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Children's Bibles marked to the story and any other books relating to the Bible event.

**Music Zone:** "Thank You, Lord, for Making Me", by Vince Barlow from the CD titled *Dance Shout, Sing* (Willow Creek Association, 1998)

**Coloring Zone:** Provide copy of the coloring page with markers, crayons.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

*Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.*

### Worship Songs:

*Choose one or two songs and list them here.*

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

*Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.*

Show *Veggie Tales: God Wants Me to Forgive Them?!?* (Big Idea Productions, 1994).

### Prayer Time:

*Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

### "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

### Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then  
move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then  
cross your arms with your hands on  
corresponding upper arms to communicate  
comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead"  
and the other with "guide" to complete the  
blessing.)*

### **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## **Closing Zones:**

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- Bible
- crown
- play money or coins
- two bags or containers for the play money

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- two large bowls
- popcorn
- paper cups and paper plates

### *Craft:*

- craft sticks, pre-assembled into crosses
- glue
- glitter, confetti, sequins, etc.
- pre-made label or cardstock "God forgives me – I forgive others."
- magnet strips
- scissors

### *Play:*

- parachute
- several small balls

### *Drama:*

- crown
- fake money

### *Quiet Reading:*

- children's picture Bibles
- basket of books

### *Music:*

- song, "Thank You, Lord, for Making Me", by Vince Barlow from the CD titled Dance Shout, Sing (Willow Creek Association, 1998)

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to re-enact story

### *Coloring:*

- crayons, markers
- coloring paper or plain paper

## *Closing Worship:*

- video, *Veggie Tales: God Wants Me to Forgive Them?!?* (Big Idea Productions, 1994)

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils and paper
- basket of books