



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

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus  
Winter Year 3, Lesson 42

# Families Need Forgiveness

**Primary Scripture:** Colossians 3:12-13; Genesis 42-46 and 50:15-26 Joseph's account of forgiveness

**Key Verse:** Colossians 3:13, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

## How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids have a keen sense of justice. If they are wrong, they feel the need to make it "right" by some type of payback. The same is true with adults. One injury leads to another. The heart of forgiveness is to release the debt and to not seek any retribution. This even includes holding grudges in our hearts. Kids need a clear definition of forgiveness and the power of forgiveness that comes through Jesus. The setting we will focus on is forgiveness in our families, perhaps the most difficult place for people to forgive.

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** Jesus has purchased forgiveness at a great price – the price of his own life and the punishment of all of our sins laid upon him at the cross.

**Jesus in us:** The power of the resurrected Jesus is given to us as we trust in him. His forgiveness that we receive is a resource to give to others.

**Jesus through us:** The injuries we have suffered, even from those closest to us in our families, by comparison are small when considered against the debt Jesus paid for our forgiveness. The power of Jesus' forgiveness can now work through us and be given to others. Forgiveness has power in that it can be passed along to many others.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies needed: popsicle stick, ruler, yardstick, one or two sofa pillows, other items of increasing size that the children will use to pay back each other*

Invite two children forward to play a quick game of "Payback." Place the kids side by side in chairs. Let them pretend that they are watching television. Have them act out the following scenario.

**Josh crowds Sam. Sam gives Josh a light tap on the shoulder. Josh reaches for a popsicle stick and taps Sam on the shoulder. Sam returns the tap with a ruler. Josh returns that tap with a slight hit to Sam's shoulder with a yardstick. Sam slams Josh with a pillow. Josh grabs the pillow and slams Sam back. The boys end up wrestling on the floor.**

*Use your imagination as you collect various objects to escalate the "war."*

Ask the kids how many of them can relate to this at home.

**It is so easy to want to give a "payback" when we feel like someone else has done something against us. Here is a question for all of us. What would I get as a "payback" if God required from me what I deserve?**

Talk about our sin and how a Holy God must punish sin. God's punishment of sin would mean that we would be death—separated from him forever by being in hell. That is what we deserve if God required a “payback.”

**God did not require us to pay him back, though. He gave us Jesus to take the punishment for us. Jesus went to the cross. When he died, God put all of our punishment on Jesus. It hurt him as badly as being separated from God in hell. It was a terrible thing and a great price for him to pay. Because of Jesus' death, God does not require us to pay for our sins. He just asks us to trust and believe in Jesus.**

**Why? Because Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus is alive! He gives us the power to come to him and receive his forgiveness. Let's ask for forgiveness now. Maybe there are some things that you have done this last week to “payback” others. Think of what they are and let's pray about them.**

After the prayer, announce God's forgiveness. Give the children the encouragement of today's Bible verse, Colossians 3:13, which talks about the forgiveness we can give others because Jesus has forgiven us.

***“Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”***

**This can be very different from our natural instincts, which might be to hit back and get revenge. Often God turns upside down what we would naturally do and has us do something entirely different – and much better! He's the King of a Kingdom UPSIDE DOWN!**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*This has already been incorporated into the second part of the Attention Grabber.*

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Talk about the mission project and how it relates to today's worship theme.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Supplies: a cross, cardboard play bricks (If cardboard play bricks are not available, use building blocks or dominos. The bricks should be able to be balanced in an upright position like dominos.*

### **“Domino Demo”**

Divide the children into teams. Give each team two minutes to set up the longest domino trail that will fall once one domino is pushed.

At the end of two minutes, see which group can complete the domino fall by pushing one domino at the end. It does not count unless all dominos fall down.

Repeat the game with the entire group making one long trail. As the dominos are knocked over this time, use a cross to push the first domino.

Gather the kids back together to explain the learning point:

**The dominos or blocks can be compared to forgiveness in people’s lives. If I do something to hurt you or hurt your feelings, and if you are mean to me in return and don’t forgive me, I might be less willing to forgive others and I might be more likely to be mean to others. You hold a grudge against me, I hold a grudge against somebody else, they hold a grudge against somebody else, and on and on it goes. All of a sudden, we have a whole long line of people who have fallen down and whose feelings are hurt.**

**But if we forgive our friends and family, they are more likely to forgive others, and forgiveness flows from one person to another until everyone has been blessed. When I pushed the first domino (or block) over with the cross, it was a reminder that Jesus has forgiven us, and we should pass along that forgiveness to others.**

**The most important place for this to happen is in our own families. Why is it hardest to forgive in our own families? Because we live with them and it is easier to be impatient with them or take them for granted.**

## **Bible Presentation:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Supplies:* the video *Joseph's Reunion* from Nest Family Entertainment — order from: <http://www.nestfamily.com>

Read Colossians 3:12, 13:

***“As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”***

Ask the children if this is what their families are like.

Introduce today's story about Joseph.

**The Bible contains true stories of real people. Many of those people had problems in their families. Joseph's family had a problem in that the brothers did something very mean to Joseph. Do you think Joseph played the payback game? Let's find out.**

Show the video from Nest Entertainment called *Joseph's Reunion*.

OR

Read Genesis 42-46, 50:15-26 from a children's story Bible.

## **Application:**

Ask kids:

**How does this video relate to today's worship theme? (*Joseph's brothers treated him poorly. Yet when Joseph had the chance to get even with them, he forgave them. God gives us the power to forgive others through Jesus.*)**



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

If time allows, children can share experiences of how they found ways to not hold grudges against brothers, sisters, or parents. Let them share how they gave forgiveness and showed kindness to those who had done something bad to them.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- popsicle stick
- ruler
- yardstick
- one or two sofa pillows
- other items of increasing size that the children will use to pay back each other

## *Learning Game:*

- cardboard play bricks (If cardboard play bricks are not available, use building blocks or dominos.)

## *Bible Presentation:*

- the video *Joseph's Reunion* from Nest Family Entertainment — order from:  
<http://www.nestfamily.com>

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