



LESSON 63 SKIT

Principle: We are to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and Peter

Scripture Reference: Matthew 18:21-35



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Matthew 18:21-35.

Peter approaches Jesus and inquires how many times we should forgive those who offend us. The Gospel teaches us that God's love and forgiveness is boundless, so ours should be too. He desires for us to have a spirit of humility, to forgive others because He has already forgiven us. We struggle with offering forgiveness to others because we desire justice, but we forget that justice was served for our undeserving souls by a righteous God. Jesus lived a sinless, holy life, yet willingly sacrificed it so that we could be made right with God. The wages of sin is death, and we are unable to pay it. We have a merciful, gracious God who has given us the gift of life through love and forgiveness. We can depend on His free, abounding mercy, to change our heart and give us a spirit of forgiveness for others.

Have you taken time lately to ponder how great His forgiveness is to you? His mercy is unlimited and our goal is to become like Him. If we have been recipients of God's mercy and forgiveness, shouldn't we extend grace to others? Do we practice this on a daily basis? Spend a few minutes in prayer, thanking God for His merciful forgiveness for our sins, and ask Him to help you love and forgive others as He forgave you.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

1) Run-through/Prayer

Run-through order of service (assigned parts, transitions, slides for music and skit, video if applicable, etc), assign door greeters, pray, mic check

2) Welcome Cabins

3) Intro Song

4) Camp Competition

Samurai Thumb Wars

Have one camper from each cabin come up to the front. Give each camper a piece of foil to wrap around their thumb (and make a long point at the top of their thumb). Pair the campers up, allowing one to have a “bye” if needed. Explain it is just like playing normal thumb wars, except the object is to get the foil off the other person’s thumb instead of just pinning their thumb. Winners continue, losers have to sit down. Continue rounds until you have one overall winner who wins the camp banner for the week.

5) Worship Set

Worship Connector

Has anyone ever done something to you that really hurt you or made you mad? Have you wanted to do something back to them, or have you stayed mad at them for a long time? It is hard to forgive someone, especially when they continue to hurt you over and over. God freely offers us forgiveness through Jesus when we come to Him with a repenting heart. He calls us to forgive others, even when they continue to hurt us, because He forgives us. Because Jesus forgives us, we are free to live joyfully, and forgive others! As we sing this next song, let’s worship God for the forgiveness He freely gives to us through His son, Jesus!

6) Skit

Forgive and Keep No Record of Wrong

ProPresenter:

None

Characters:

Storyteller

Staff Member #1

Staff Member #2

Props:

Shoebox filled with slips of paper.

Script:

Staff Member #1 walks in holding a shoebox.

Staff Member #1: **Welcome to Camp Grace.** (Campers respond with “woo!”) Yeah, yeah...woo! I’m not in a woo-mood, today. I am so angry. You know what this is? Well, it’s more than any old shoebox. See, I heard that (Staff Member #2) is going to come in here today to apologize to me for *accidentally* losing my camera. Well, I’m ready. When he apologizes, I’m going to open this box and show him all these pieces of paper. “Why,” you may ask. Well, on these pieces of paper, I’ve written down everything that (Staff Member #2) has ever done wrong to me. Look at this! (Hold box so the campers

can see all the paper.) He has said “I’m sorry” to me for all of these wrongs. So, today, I’m just going to show (Staff Member #2) the box of “I’m sorrys” and say that I’m through with forgiving. I mean how many times am I supposed to forgive, anyway? Oh, here he comes. Watch this.

(Staff Member #2 and Storyteller enter.)

Staff Member #2: Oh, here you are. We’ve been looking for you.

Staff Member #1: (Wink at kids, knowingly.) Oh? And, what do *you* want?

Storyteller: We wanted to find you because (Staff Member #2) wanted to talk with you about something.

Staff Member #1: (Wink knowingly, again.) Oh, is that so?

Staff Member #2: Yes. This is difficult, but I wanted to come to you and explain that I lost your camera. I was on a hike. I placed the camera on a rock near the river for just a minute while I ate my lunch. I accidentally knocked it with my foot. It fell into the river and was swept away in the current before I even had a chance to grab it. I am very, very...

Staff Member #1: Let me guess. You’re very, very sorry, right?

Staff Member #2: Yes. Yes, I was going to say I’m sorry.

Staff Member #1: Well check this out. (Empty box dramatically in front of the staff member’s feet. Be careful not to let papers fall where the campers sit. They’ll be tempted to read the paper and it could distract from the skit.)

Storyteller: Wow! What’s all this?

Staff Member #1: This just happens to be all the things that (Staff Member #2) has ever done wrong to me and then apologized for.

Staff Member #2: You wrote everything down?

Staff Member #1: I sure did. Every single thing! I just wanted to illustrate for you and everyone else how many times I’ve heard the phrase “I’m sorry.” I don’t want to hear it anymore. How many times do you expect me to forgive you?!

Storyteller: You know, that’s an excellent question.

Staff Member #2: It is?!

Storyteller: Sure. We all feel that way at times. How about you guys? (To the campers.) Haven’t you gotten to the point with a brother, a sister, or a friend of getting fed up with forgiving? Did you know that even Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, asked how many times we should forgive. In Matthew 18,

Jesus was talking about what you should do when someone does something against you. Peter asked if he should forgive up to seven times.

Staff Member #1: I've forgiven way more than seven times. (Gesture toward paper on the stage.)

Storyteller: Well, seven times to forgive one person is a lot. But, Jesus said, "...not just seven times, but seventy times seven."

(Staff Member #1 drops to his knees and begins counting paper.)

Storyteller: What are you doing?

Staff Member #1: I think I've forgiven about seventy times seven times. Let me just count and see. If I have, I won't have to forgive him another time.

Storyteller: Before you continue your counting, stand up and hear what Jesus meant by that answer. (Staff Member #1 stands.) See, Jesus didn't mean we should only forgive a person seventy times seven times. He just multiplied seventy to Peter's number to say that Peter shouldn't even keep a record of how many times someone wronged him. Jesus meant that there was no limit to the number of times we forgive others.

Staff Member #1: So, if someone wrongs me over and over, I should forgive over and over?

Storyteller: Right. That's what Jesus wants from us.

Staff Member #1: But, why should I just keep forgiving?

Storyteller: We forgive because Jesus forgives us. He forgives us over and over if we ask Him.

Staff Member #1: Wow! I never thought of it that way. I hurt Jesus with my sin over and over again. He continues to forgive me.

Storyteller: You know what else? Jesus keeps no record of my wrongs. When He forgives me, He wipes the slate clean.

Staff Member #1: (To Staff Member #2) I owe you an apology. Keeping a record of all the times you have wronged me was wrong on my part. I know you didn't mean to lose my camera. I shouldn't hold it against you. I forgive you for that and for everything else I was holding against you.

Staff Member #2: Thanks. That means a lot to me. I'll work to buy you a new camera.

Staff Member #1: There's no need to do that. Let's start fresh. Let's gather up this paper and take it to the campfire.

Storyteller: That's a great idea. Hey, campers, maybe you have been holding a grudge against someone who has done you wrong. Confess your grudge to Jesus. He will forgive you and help you

to forgive that person. Let's pray.

Jesus, thank You for forgiving us over and over again. Thank You for wiping the slate clean. Help us to be forgiving. Help us to keep no record of wrongs. Amen.



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