



WEEK 3 LEADER PREP

Ephesians 4:32 (English Standard Version)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

As you prepare to lead our students through this message, think of the end goal of forgiveness: Giving it to others and asking for it from those we have offended. We want our students to leave this session encouraged that God has forgiven them and in the process, gave us a blueprint for how we can treat others.

WEEK 3 OVERVIEW

THE MAIN POINT

Forgiveness is necessary in even the greatest of friendships.

THE BIBLE

Ephesians 4:32

Matthew 5:14

Luke 23:34

DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion. Adjust the questions and activities as needed to fit your group.

Don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

GET THEM TALKING

(Icebreaker Questions – Feel free to ask as many or as few as you'd like)

- If you could be like any famous fictional character, who would it be?
- What rule did you break the most in middle school?

TOPIC QUESTIONS

- Do You believe in the axiom forgive and forget?
- Describe a world without forgiveness.
- Describe a time when you were the recipient of forgiveness from someone else.
- Who is the most forgiving person you know?
- How does God's love and forgiveness inspire you to treat others?

READ Ephesians 4:32 and answer the following questions:

1. What does it mean to be kind and tenderhearted to other people?
2. When and How did God forgive us?
3. What is our blueprint for forgiveness?
4. **REFLECTION:** Why is it so hard for us to forgive others?

READ Luke 23:18-25, 34 and answer the following questions:

1. How many times did Pilate ask the crowd about crucifying Jesus?
2. Did Pilate ever conclude that Jesus should be crucified?
3. Why did Pilate agree to crucify Jesus?
4. Why was Jesus so quick to forgive those who were mistreating Him?
5. **REFLECTION:** Share a time when you were able to quickly forgive someone.

NEXT STEP

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." – James 1:22

Lead your students to take the following steps:

1. Think of someone who has wronged you in some way.
2. Write down on a piece of paper all of the reasons why you have not forgiven that person.
3. Pray as a group (Using the prayer guide below) to soften everyone's heart to a point of forgiving the person(s) who have offended you.
4. Commit this week to verbally telling that person that you no longer hold their offense against them.

PRAYER GUIDE

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. We thank you for your grace, mercy, and love. We also thank you for forgiving all of us of our sins. We thank you for loving and caring for us in this way. Lord, we ask you right now to calm our hearts. Give us the strength, courage and determination necessary to forgive those who have offended us. Lord, we have embraced Your forgiveness and ask that you give us the ability to forgive even the deepest of offenses. We thank you again for who you are. In your name we pray...Amen!