



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that forgiving others is an important part of friendship.

MAIN POINT

We are called to forgive like Jesus forgives.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:3-6 & 47-51 +
Ephesians 4:31-5:1

THINK ABOUT THIS

Forgiveness can sometimes seem like it comes from a weak place – but the opposite is true. It takes a lot of strength to forgive someone who has wronged you. Forgiving someone isn't saying what they did was ok, but it is saying you are releasing that person from holding what they did against you. We can not begin our relationship with God without accepting His forgiveness; forgiveness is hugely important in our Christian faith. Remind your students that forgiving others comes from a place of great strength and is an essential ingredient to loving others well.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and 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.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.
- Raise your hand if a friend has ever done or said something that was hard for you to forgive? (*Look around the room! This is a common part of being in a relationship with, well, anyone.*)
- Why do you think sometimes that it's hard to forgive?

INTO THE WORD

READ Luke 22:3-6 & 47-51 and discuss the following:

- What did Judas do?
- How did the other disciples react?
- How do you think you would've reacted if you were there as a disciple?
- How do you think Jesus felt, being betrayed by one of his closest friends?
- How did Jesus react?
- Why do you think He reacted this way?

READ Ephesians 4:31-5:1 and discuss the following:

- What things are we supposed to get rid of?
- What things can hold us back from letting go of these things?
- What things are we supposed to do instead?
- How would it impact our friendships if we lived this way?
- How can we turn to God to help us live this way, especially when it's hard in our own strength?

NEXT STEP + PRAYER

Ask students to think if there is anyone in their life they need to forgive. Take a few moments in **silent prayer to allow each person time to pray alone in their hearts to God about forgiveness** (do they need to ask God to help them forgive someone or forgive them for something?). When time is up, close in prayer thanking God for forgiving us all when we have hurt Him and asking Him to help us reflect His forgiveness to others.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Scripture is provided for convenience, but we prefer you and your students open your Bibles to read the Scripture. This helps your students learn how to find Scripture in their Bibles and where these verses are in the larger context of God's Word.

Luke 22:3-6 & 47-51 NLT

³ Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, ⁴ and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. ⁵ They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. ⁶ So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around....

⁴⁷ But even as Jesus said this, a crowd approached, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus to greet him with a kiss. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹ When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, "Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck at the high priest's slave, slashing off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, "No more of this." And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Ephesians 4:31-5:1 NLT

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

5 Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.