

# DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

## Lesson 11

Small Group Lesson Plan | Primary (Grades K-3)

### LESSON 11: Forgiven

<b>Bible Story</b>  Jesus Died Among Criminals	<b>Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Bible</li><li>• A squishy ball*</li><li>• A pitcher filled with water</li><li>• A bag of individually-wrapped candy</li><li>• One plastic cup per student</li></ul>  *Materials marked with an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.
<b>Bible Verse</b>  “He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.” <i>Ephesians 1:7, NLT</i>	
 <b>Identity   Who God Says I Am</b>  I can be forgiven.	

## Small Group Session 1 15 Minutes

### Opening Icebreaker

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

- Ask children to share a God Sighting: Where have they seen God at work in their school or in their home? What is one thing they can celebrate or praise God for in the past week?
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As students are eating their snack, ask, **"Who has shown you forgiveness? How did it make you feel?"**

### Pray Together

[Collect prayer requests from the students.](#)

The small group leader or a child who volunteers may pray for the entire group.

### Small Group Game: Silent Speedball

**Materials:** a squishy ball

Begin by having all players stand close to the center of the playing area. Throw a squishy ball into the air over the players. Whoever grabs the ball first can take three steps in any direction and has five seconds to throw it. They may either throw it up into the air again or try to tag another player. If they tag someone with the ball, the player sits down. If they catch it, the player who threw must sit down. Anyone sitting down can get back up if they are able to grab the ball (without moving from their seated spot) and tag another standing player. There are no teams, and no "winners" in this game, although you may play until there are only a few remaining, declare them "winners" and begin a new round.

## Small Group Session 2 35 Minutes

### Identity Exploration

Set up a ring toss game with six 2-liter bottles arranged in a triangle like bowling pins. Cut apart several plastic rings that hold the six-pack of bottles together. Use a piece of masking tape to mark a toss line about three feet back.

**We're going to play a ring toss game. For every ring you land over the neck of a bottle, I'll give you a piece of candy.**

Give each child three tries, and award a piece of candy for each try whether or not the ring lands on a bottle. If kids are puzzled, just ignore them and keep the game going.

After the game, ask, **"What do you think was different about this game?"**

Take student responses.

**How did you feel about getting nickels when you messed up and didn't really earn them?**

Take student responses.

**If you landed the rings on the bottles, how did you feel when you ended up getting the same prize as people who didn't land any?**

Take student responses.

**How is getting a prize when you didn't earn it like getting forgiveness when you mess up in real life?**

Take student responses.

**The amazing and wonderful thing is that no matter how many times we mess up in life, Jesus is always willing to give us his free gift of forgiveness. In the Bible story today, Jesus forgave a criminal and even those who were involved in his death. Can he not forgive us as well?**



**Service** | Agreeing with who God says we are in his word and living accordingly.

Give each child a plastic cup. Form one large circle. Pour water from a pitcher into your own cup.

## **Forgiveness comes from God. Jesus forgives us as we forgive others.**

As you say “others,” pour the water from your cup into the cup of the person on your right. Have that person repeat the sentence, “God forgives us as we forgive others,” and pour the water into the next person’s cup. Continue in that manner around the circle.

If someone spills the water, refill their cup from the pitcher and say, “**God’s forgiveness never runs dry.**” Then continue until the water comes back to you.

**God’s forgiveness works just like our circle. We first receive forgiveness from God, and then we pass that forgiveness on to others. Hold your cup in both hands and think of one person you can forgive. Silently pray and ask God to help you forgive that person.**

### **Bible Verse Game**

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.” *Ephesians 1:7, NLT*

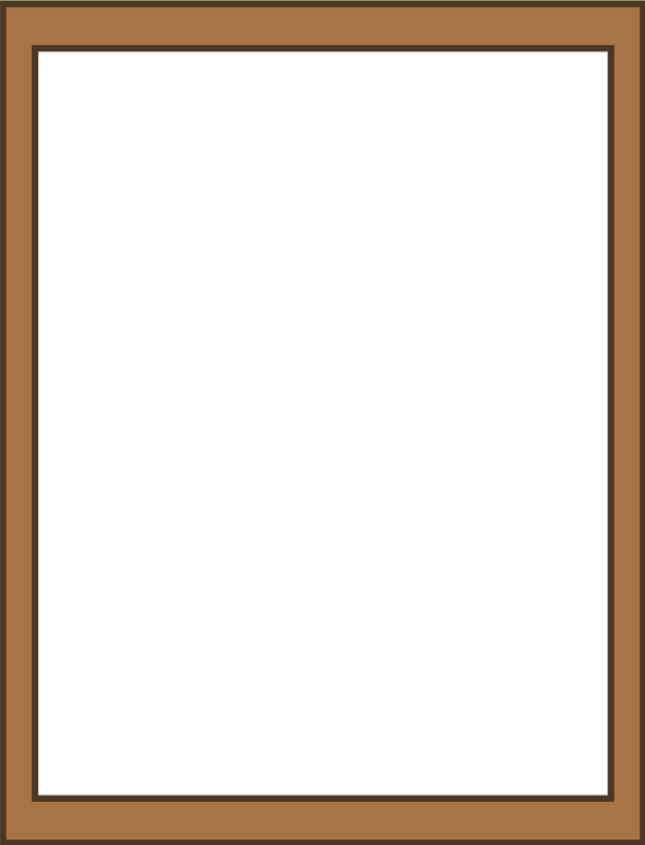
### **Treasure Chest Handout**

Give each student a treasure chest handout and some colored markers or crayons. Invite the students to draw something they discovered about Jesus and something they discovered about themselves inside their treasure chest. Students should also circle the tool that they used in small group to help them discover those truths. As the students are completing the handout, ask students to think about how they can use that tool during the week.

Name:

Story:

What's in your  
treasure chest?



**TOOLBAR**



Thanksgiving



Confession



Worship



Prayer



Meditation



Identity



Service



Bible