



Lesson 10

A God Who Forgives

Intermediate Small Group Lesson

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man</p> <p><i>Luke 5:17-26</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name tags• Snacks• How Are You Feeling? emoji chart• A device with a timer• Four plastic cups• One ping pong ball• ZAP Point Cards from the Crossroads Games Bag
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.”</p> <p><i>Psalm 130:2-4, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive God’s forgiveness.</p>	

Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

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

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from 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 the students are eating their snacks, ask, **"Do you think forgiveness is easy or difficult? Why or why not?"**

Pray Together

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

Small Group Game: Ping Pong Water Game

Preparation: Fill four cups with water almost to the rim and line them up, setting a ping pong ball into the first one.

Materials: Four plastic cups, one ping pong ball

One student at-a-time will blow the ping pong ball from one water filled cup to the next. If they blow the ping pong ball out of the cup, the ball should be placed back in the first cup for them to try again. Keep a timer to track how long it takes them to successfully blow the ping pong ball from the first cup to the last cup without knocking the ball out of the cups. The student who completes the challenge in the shortest amount of time wins.

Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

Life Application Activity

In today's story, forgiveness changed everything. Jesus healed the paralyzed man completely—inside and out! We need Jesus' healing and forgiveness too.

We're going to discuss what God's forgiveness is all about by playing a game together and answering questions about forgiveness.

Divide students into two teams and assign a scorekeeper. Ask a student from the first team a question from the list below while playing ZAP. After the student answers their

question, let them draw a point-value card from the ZAP game. They receive the number of points on the card they draw for their team. They can continue to draw additional point-value cards to accumulate points, or they can stop (with their accumulated point total). If they draw a ZAP card, they lose all their accumulated points and must start again. A student from the second team can answer a question and take a turn at ZAP. Whichever team ends with the most points wins. You may use the questions more than once to draw the students to think more deeply about the concepts.

- **How would you define “forgiveness?”** (Answers will vary.)
- **Give an example of forgiveness.** (Answers will vary.)
- **Why do people need God’s forgiveness?** (Because sin has broken our relationship with God.)
- **How can you receive God’s forgiveness?** (By trusting in Jesus and asking for his forgiveness.)
- **Can you be forgiven for the same sin more than once? How do you know?** (Yes. God’s Word tells us that he forgives all of our sins.)
- **Should we forgive others? Why or why not?** (Yes, because Jesus commands us to and because God forgives us.)

Receive the Gift!

Prayer: A two-way conversation with God.

Walk students through the A-C-T-S structure of prayer. For each step, briefly explain the type of approach to prayer (adore, confess, thank, seeking God’s help) and then ask the students to repeat the suggested prayer phrase or fill in the blank to personalize the prayer.

Aadore - **God forgives us and loves us. He gives us a fresh start.**

Confess - **I’m sorry for _____.**

Thank - **Thank you God for rescuing me from my sin.
Thank you for loving me. Thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you for giving me a fresh start, for wiping my record of sin away.**

Seek God’s Help - **I need your help to _____.**

Bible Verse Game

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

“Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.”

Psalm 130:2-4, New Living Translation

Reflection

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. What gift can I receive from God?
2. How can this gift impact my life?