



# Lesson 10

## A God Who Forgives

### Large Group Lesson & Games

<p><b>Bible Story</b></p> <p>Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man</p> <p><i>Luke 5:17-26</i></p>	<p><b>Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A blanket or a bath towel, one for every 8-12 children</li><li>• A ball or balloon, one for every 8-12 children</li><li>• A whiteboard, sheet of poster board or chart paper &amp; a marker to write on it.</li></ul>
<p><b>Bible Verse</b></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><b>Key Teaching Point</b></p> <p>Receive God’s forgiveness.</p>	



# Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

**Does anyone know what the word “forgiveness” means?**

Take student responses. On a whiteboard, or a sheet of poster board or chart paper, write the word “forgiveness.” Write a simple definition, such as “to let go of being angry at someone who hurt you” and/or “to not make someone pay for their wrongdoing.”

**Listen to today’s story to see what it has to do with forgiveness. Who gives forgiveness and who receives it?**

Instruct students to interact with the story today by responding to two simple cue words: UP and DOWN. When they hear the word UP, they should stand up quickly, and when they hear the word DOWN, they should sit down.

**One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting DOWN nearby. (It seemed that these men showed UP from every village DOWN in Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord’s healing power was strongly UPON Jesus.**

**Some men came carrying a paralyzed man, who they had LAID DOWN on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So, they went UP to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat DOWN into the crowd, right in front of Jesus, who looked UP and saw what was happening. Seeing their faith, Jesus looked DOWN and said to the man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”**

**But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law went into an UProar. They said to themselves, “Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”**

**Jesus knew what they were thinking, but he didn’t quiet DOWN. Instead, he spoke UP and asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to tell a paralyzed man DOWN on his mat, ‘Stand up and walk’? So, I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority from UP on high to come DOWN to earth to forgive people’s sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand UP, pick UP your mat, and go home!”**

**The noise had died DOWN completely. Immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped UP, picked up his mat, and went home, running DOWN the road, praising God. Everyone was gripped with**



**great wonder and awe, and they lifted their praises UP to God, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today!”**

**Jesus healed the paralyzed man two ways. Can anyone explain what I mean?**

Take student responses.

**Jesus healed the man’s body (physically). He also healed the man’s heart (spiritual healing). He forgave his sins and gave him a clean heart. Jesus also wants to offer us this gift of spiritual healing through forgiveness, too!**

**The Pharisees and religious leaders and teachers at that time believed that only God could forgive sins. When Jesus healed and forgave the paralytic man, he was declaring to all people that he was the Son of God. We can also receive this incredible gift of forgiveness that comes from God by believing that as the Son of God, he has the power to forgive us our sins and to clear out our record.**

**We’ll discuss this more in our small groups.**

Dismiss students to their small groups.



# Large Group Games

(25 Minutes)

## MAN ON A MAT RELAY

**Materials needed:** A blanket or bath towel, one for every team of 8-12 players, and a ball or balloon, one for every team of 8-12 players.

Divide students into teams of 8-12 players and have them form lines in a relay style. If the number of players is not exactly divisible by four, some players should be selected to perform the relay twice. Each team will be given a blanket or bath towel and one ball or balloon. On the signal go, four players will grab the corners of the blanket and place the ball in the center. Imagining the ball is the paralyzed friend, the four players must carry the “mat” without dropping the ball and quickly run to the end of the line and back. Then, they pass the mat and the ball the next four players. The first team to have all players finish wins! *Note: If the ball falls off the mat, the team must return to the starting line and begin again.*

## WHICH IS EASIER?

**Materials needed:** Squishy ball

Gather everyone into a circle. Toss a ball to a student in the circle and ask them a “Which is easier?” question, such as:

- To swim or to fly.
- To sing or to play an instrument.
- To say you are the best soccer player on your team or to be voted most valuable player by your teammates.
- To run the mile or to walk the mile.

Once the students get the hang of it, they can make up their own questions to ask the person they toss the ball toward. End by having an adult ask: “Which is easier: to forgive sins (by dying on a cross) or to say get up and walk to a paralytic so he can walk?”

