



Lesson 22

Pass It On!

Intermediate Small Group Lesson

Bible Story

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Bible Verse

“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:32, New Living Translation

Key Teaching Point

Those who’ve been forgiven, forgive others.

Materials

- Name tags
- Snacks
- How Are You Feeling? emoji chart
- A squishy ball
- Approximately 500 dried pinto beans per group
- Two bowls per small group
- A penny



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, "**How has Jesus forgiven you?**"

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: 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)

Life Application Activity

Peter, one of Jesus' followers, asked Jesus, "How many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me?" How many times do you think Jesus wants us to forgive someone who wrongs us?

Take volunteer responses. Read Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT).

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"



Jesus said we are to forgive others 70 times 7! That is a lot. Let's see what that looks like.

Set out the two bowls and put seven pinto beans in one of the bowls. Then challenge students to take the remaining pinto beans and see who can be the first to count out a pile of 70 beans. Then, combine all the students' beans together in the second bowl to represent 70×7 . (Ideally, if you have seven students, you will end up with 70×7 but you may adjust the numbers depending on the size of your group).

Jesus wants us to forgive others because God forgave us. God is holy and perfect, so our sin against him is WAY bigger than anything that people might do to wrong us.

Point at the large bowl.

This is how much Christ forgave us. When we choose to believe in Jesus and become part of God's family, all our sins are forgiven, and we get the blessing of living forever with God.

Point at the small bowl.

This is like the wrongs and hurts that people commit against us compared to what Christ forgave us. Doesn't it look silly to say we can't forgive others this much if God forgave us this much? When we choose to believe in Jesus and become part of God's family, all our sins are forgiven, and we get the blessing of living forever with God. God showed mercy to us, so he gives us the power to show mercy to others: 70×7 !

Receive the Gift!

Worship: Agreeing with who God is and responding through our words or actions.

God is always merciful. What does mercy mean? (Take the children's ideas.) I like to think of mercy as not receiving a bad consequence that I deserve. It is closely related to grace, which means receiving something good that you don't deserve instead of something bad.

Give each child a penny. Explain that God is merciful 100 percent of the time. **Imagine if God was not merciful and forgiving. What if he forgave sometimes but not always? Ask the group to stand up. Say: Let's see what would happen if God showed us mercy half the time. Let's pretend that you told a lie this morning and that God's mercy is only 50/50. Flip your coins and if it lands heads up, you receive mercy. However, if it is tails up, you must sit down. You have not received mercy.** Continue naming sins that children may commit and flipping the coins. Before long, everyone will be sitting down. Point out how if God didn't forgive us and show us mercy all the time, there would not be much hope for us.



How do we respond to this mercy we've been given?

Take student responses.

To whom does God want us to show mercy? (everyone, even our enemies)

God wants us to be like him, and he is loving, kind and merciful. God's mercy does not fail. It is not like the flip of a coin. He is always merciful. Because God is merciful, we should be merciful, too.

Bible Verse Game

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

“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” *Ephesians 4:32, 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 have I received from God that I can share with others?
2. How can this gift impact people in my life?

