

## MEMORY VERSE

"Put up with one another.  
Forgive one another if you  
are holding something against  
someone. Forgive, just as the  
Lord forgave you."  
Colossians 3:13, NIV

## LIFE APP

### Forgiveness

Forgiveness a promise not to keep a  
record of wrongs against someone.

## KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to ask  
for forgiveness?

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter  
what.

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Read the verse together as a  
group and then see if anyone is  
ready to say it on their own

## PRAYER

"Dear God, Thank You for today's reminder that everyone needs  
forgiveness. You know each of us, and You are aware of all that we're  
going through. I ask that You help every kid in this group to forgive  
those that they need to forgive. Give them your strength to handle  
difficult situations. Thank You that we can always come to You and rely  
on you for help. We love You, God. Amen."

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### ASK:

- Are there some people in your life who are easier to always forgive than others?
- Do you ever feel like you don't deserve to be forgiven? If so, why?
- When is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

WHAT YOU NEED "God Always" Activity page, Bibles,  
pens or pencils

### ACTIVITY:

- Put kids in pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a copy of the "God Always" Activity Page, a Bible, and a pen or pencil.
- Tell kids to work with their partner to look up each verse listed on the sheet and complete the sentence next to the verse.
- After everyone has finished looking up the verses and filling in the blanks, let kids share the answers they came up with.

1. Isaiah 41:10

God always helps us, do what is right.

2. Joshua 1:9

God always goes with you.

3. Jeremiah 29:11

God always has a plan.

4. Colossians 3:13

God always forgives us.

### • Ask:

- When have you experienced God doing one of the things we just talked about?

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## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### ASK:

- When has someone forgiven you?
- Has anyone ever asked for your forgiveness? How did you respond?
- How can forgiveness change someone

WHAT YOU NEED: “Forgiveness Builds Change” Activity  
Page,

### ACTIVITY:

- Let kids take turns answering the questions from the game. (See answers below.)
1. In order to forgive others, one must get rid of all bitterness, rage, and/or anger.
  2. Through forgiveness, God chooses not to count our sins against us.
  3. We shouldn’t forgive someone up to seven times, but rather seventy-seven times.
  4. God is full of love and mercy.
  5. When you are praying, you can ask God to help you forgive.
  6. God’s forgiveness should motivate us to forgive others.

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## KEY QUESTION

When has something  
turned out better than  
you expected?

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter  
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### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Read the verse together as a  
group and then see if anyone is  
ready to say it on their own

### PRAYER

"God, we know we can trust you no matter what. Thank you  
for helping us to understand we are not on our own. We  
know we can keep going and doing the right thing despite  
the choices of others because you are on our side. In Jesus  
name we pray. Amen!"

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### TALK IT OUT:

1. When has something turned out better than you expected?
2. How does it make you feel to know that God is writing a bigger story in your life, just like God did for Joseph?
3. Even though we know there's a bigger story, why is it so hard to believe that sometimes?

### ACTIVITY:

- Ask for a volunteer to use a Bible to look up Hebrews 12:1-2.
- Invite them to read it out loud for the group
- Explain that the "Cloud of witnesses" mentioned in the passage is referring to real people who lived long ago, and saw God do amazing things.
- Give each kid a copy of the "Cloud of Witnesses" activity page and ask if anyone can name people from today's story who could be in that cloud. (Answers may include: Joseph, Jacob, Joseph's brothers)
- Discuss how Jesus had ultimate grit when He died on the cross for us. That is the bigger story that we can hold on to for hope.

Pray or choose a volunteer to pray before small group time ends!

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## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### ASK:

- Why does God always forgive us?
- Do you ever feel like you don't deserve to be forgiven? If so, why?
- When is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

WHAT YOU NEED No supplies needed

### ACTIVITY:

- Invite kids to stand in two lines, where each kid faces another kid in the opposite line. Ask kids to spread out so that each pair has some space between them and whoever is next in line.
- Explain that they will spend a quick moment exchanging prayer requests with the person they are facing and then taking a moment to pray for each other.
- Remind kids how important it is to respect each other in confidentiality of whatever someone chooses to share.
  - Also, assure kids that just because they may not have anything major going on doesn't mean they don't need prayer for anything.
  - Give some suggestions that may help spark kids who struggle to know what to pray about. (ie: upcoming test in school, getting along with a sibling, etc.)
- After every pair has taken time to pray, instruct one of the lines to shift down one person, so that each kid is paired with someone new. Whoever is at the end of the line will go to the opposite end of the line.
- Repeat the process of exchanging prayer requests and praying for each other until kids have prayed with three or four different people.
- Kids can choose to share their same request with each partner they are paired with or can think of new prayer requests to share with each partner.
- Encourage kids to remember to pray for each other through the week. Remind kids that God always listens to us and cares about the things that matter to us.