

Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

Read: Ephesians 4:32

DAY
1

How to Forgive

When you forgive someone you, are showing them how much they mean to you. Act out some actions or feelings that you can use when you start to forgive someone. Here are some to start with: love, happiness, joy, kindness, and generosity.

KNOW that it feels good to forgive others.

DAY
2

Changes

Think of an animal or insect that can change. For example, a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, a crab changes its shell, and even a chameleon changes its color. Every animal or insect that makes a change does it to make itself better. When you forgive others, it can change them and you! Draw a before and after photo of what you might look like before and after you forgive someone!

LOOK for times that you need to forgive others!

DAY
3

Don't Forget!

Write out this week's verse or have an adult help using a whiteboard or a pencil (something you can erase). Read it aloud a few times and then start erasing words or phrases. Repeat the verse using your memory to complete the verse! Don't feel like you have to do it all today! Practice throughout the whole week!

ASK God to help you be kind, tender and forgiving!

DAY
4

Change Others for Good

"Dear God, I pray that I can follow Your lead and forgive others. I know that by forgiving others I can change them for the good. I pray that they can see You in me when I forgive, especially when it's hard. Please help me to forgive always. Amen"

ASK God to lead you to forgive others quickly.

When you forgive others,
it can change them.



Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

DAY 1

Read Proverbs 10:12

When someone hurts you, it can be hard to forgive. When we're hurt, we want to hurt the other person right back. We cannot move toward forgiveness if we choose to hold onto our anger. Anger can just make things worse. Choosing to love and forgive can help us make things right.

Instead of stirring things up and making them worse, forgiveness calms everything down. In fact, forgiving someone else can change them!

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Fill in the analogies by unscrambling the words below:

FURRY is to RACCOON as SPIKY is to

.....  
E I P P O R U N C

SHAKING is to EARTHQUAKE as SPINNING

is to .....  
O O A R N T D

HATE is to FIGHT as FORGIVE is to

.....  
E A P E C

*Porcupine, Tornado, Peace*

## DAY 2

### Read Luke 19:7-8

When Zacchaeus climbed up in that tree to get a better view, he had NO idea that Jesus would stop, call him by name, and invite himself over for dinner. But that's exactly what happened!

Everyone needs forgiveness. That's why Jesus came! Jesus chose to love and forgive him. And because of Jesus' forgiveness, Zacchaeus changed from the inside out!

Ask these questions about forgiveness at your next family meal.

How did it feel when someone chose to forgive you?

What might happen to the people around you if you decided to forgive?

How does forgiveness change you when someone offers it?

DAY 3

### Read Matthew 5:7

What is mercy? Circle the answer below.

The compassionate treatment of those in distress

- a. Forgiveness, benevolence, and kindness
- b. Choosing to treat someone with compassion
- c. Letting someone off the hook

Did you circle all the answers? When someone hurts you and asks for forgiveness, you have a choice. You can choose to show mercy and forgive, or you can hold onto your anger.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told us that people who show mercy will be blessed. When we choose to forgive, to show mercy, we become more like Jesus.

Stop and thank God for forgiving you, no matter what. Ask God to help you to show mercy and compassion to the people around you.

DAY 4

### Read Luke 6:37

Have you ever followed a map at a museum or an amusement park? Without that map, you might have gotten lost!

When Jesus spoke these words about forgiveness, He was giving us a kind of map for our relationships. When you forgive instead of holding on to your anger and frustration, it frees you. Let love be the guide for your life.

What might happen if you let forgiveness and love be your map this week?

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Draw a line to complete the phrases from today's verse. Ask God to help you lead with love and forgiveness this week.

Do not Judge and you will not be found guilty

Do not find others guilty and you will be forgiven

Forgive and you will not be judged

When you forgive others,
it can change them.

Journal

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.

[illegible]

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March
2023

Week Two
4th-5th



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

Watch this week's episode of
The So & So Show by going to:
<https://bit.ly/PreteenSundaysatHome>

2. You learned:

Even if you already saw it at church,
feel free to check it out again!

3. You'd like to know:

A Devotional on Forgiveness.

FOR AN
everyday faith.

Day 2

Read Luke 19:1-10

Read Luke 19:1-4, 7 and underline the way Zacchaeus is described, as well as the things that others say about him.

Next, read how Jesus showed forgiveness toward Zacchaeus in verses 5-6.

Lastly, choose the answer below that describes how Zacchaeus was changed by Jesus' forgiveness.

- A) He quit being a tax collector
 - B) He gave back four times what he had stolen from people
 - C) He gave half of what he owned to the poor.
 - D) Both B and C
- (Hint: You can find the answer in verse 8.)

In a single day, Zacchaeus went from outcast to beloved follower of Jesus! His entire life was changed from the inside out. He promised to give away half of what he had to the poor, plus four times the amount he cheated anyone. That might have been nearly all he had! But it didn't matter because Jesus had forgiven Zacchaeus completely, even before he asked.



Day 3

When you forgive others, it can change them.

Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive that maybe hasn't asked you for forgiveness? Remember, forgiving someone doesn't mean that you will allow them to continue to hurt you. But if someone hurt you and you can find a way to show forgiveness to them, you might actually see them change. It's not guaranteed, of course, but it does make it much easier for that person to change.

Personalize the prayer below to ask God to help you forgive.

“Dear God, I know I need to forgive _____ for _____
_____. Forgiving _____ is hard, especially since _____ hasn't asked for my forgiveness. But I don't want to hold on to the anger, and I want to free _____ to change. Please soften _____ heart toward You and toward me, and please give me wisdom on how I can show _____ forgiveness. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.”

Day 4

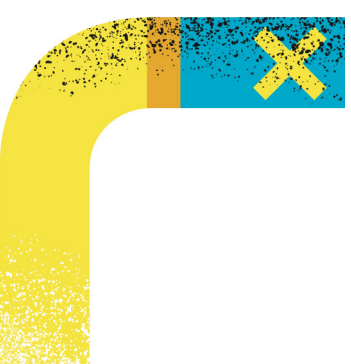
Jesus went to stay at Zacchaeus' house and share a meal with him.

When that happened, Zacchaeus recognized his sin and changed his ways. There's something about sharing a meal with someone that makes it easier to share your life with others.

Take this question to the next meal that you share with others. It could be some friends at lunch or your family at dinner.

When has someone forgiven you?

Take turns answering the question and sharing how that forgiveness helped you change.



Day 5

When Zacchaeus realized he had done something wrong and needed to change, he changed big time.

Instead of stealing money from others, he ended up giving back over half of what he owned.

Head to a door where you live and try this:

Sometimes when someone hurts us, they apologize, and we immediately forgive them. It's like we open the door so the relationship can continue. (*Open your door.*)

Sometimes they apologize, but we struggle to forgive them. (*Mostly close the door, leaving just a bit of space.*)

And sometimes they never apologize, and that might be the hardest time to forgive of all. (*Close the door all the way.*)

We can't control if other people change, but we can still offer forgiveness—and that forgiveness can open the door for them to change.

Think about keeping your door wide open this week as a reminder that forgiveness opens the door to change.