



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

“Forgiveness Without Limits”

-- Or --

“Anything But *That* LORD!”

Memory Verse: *Forgive, and you will be forgiven.* **Lu 6:37**

Lesson Overview: One very important element of true “Jesus” love is *forgiveness*. If we do not forgive, then we cannot truly love. This lesson is designed to teach children about unconditional forgiveness, and to comprehend the import impact such forgiveness has on their lives. Upon completing this lesson, children should have a good understanding of what forgiveness is, the importance of forgiving, and how it affects their lives.

Requirements for the Lesson:

1. Two (2) cupcakes
2. One or two regular birthday candles
3. One or two trick candles that cannot be blown out

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

“It Keeps Coming Back!” For this object lesson, you need to place a regular candle(s) on a well decorated cupcake, and then do the same with the trick candle(s) and the other cupcake.

Light the trick candle (Give the candle time to get well under way, or it may not work properly). Next, get a volunteer to blow out the candle. When the flame returns, continue to have the volunteer try twice or three times to do it. Talk to the children while doing all of this about forgiveness. You can even just explain what the lesson is about today. When that volunteer can’t get it done, **invite another volunteer to try**. After that, explain that sometimes this is the way some people forgive. They say, “I forgive you,” but then they won’t really let it go. They take their forgiveness back.

Explain how this is really *not* forgiveness at all. This type of forgiveness is phony, and it is really more like a lie than forgiveness. Mention how the cupcake is pretty, and looks good on the outside, but inside it could be rotten. **Luke 7:47** says, *“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”*

Now explain that we can't always forgive on our own. Just like love, real power to forgive comes from God by his Holy Spirit.

Next, **light the regular candle.** Get another volunteer to blow it out. When they see that it stays out, explain that God can help us forgive in this way--once and for all!

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***“It Keeps Coming Back!”***

1. Forgiveness

Did you ever meet someone who never seemed to be able to forgive you for something? It could even be something that happened a long time ago, but they just will not forget about it. Maybe it wasn't even a big thing—just a little one. That's a sad thing because people like that just get all eaten up inside with hate. If they would just forgive everyone, then Jesus could clean them all up and fill their heart with love.

a. What Is Forgiveness.

QUESTION: What do you think forgiveness is? (*Saying no to hate and forgetting about what someone has done—like it never happened in the first place*)

QUESTION: If you were to forgive someone for doing something to you, what would it look like? (*A hug; playing with them again; trusting them again; giving them many more chances; doing something nice for them*)

QUESTION: Everyone has someone they have a hard time forgiving. Would one of you want to share about a time when you had to forgive someone?

Let's look at someone who had trouble understanding forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-35. (*Have the children take turns telling you something about the parable of the Unmerciful Servant. Let them each give a statement at a time until they are finished, then you can fill in and elaborate on the story. If they are unfamiliar with the parable, then simply read it, and then let them explain it to you.*)

QUESTION: Who had forgiveness in this parable? (*The King*)

QUESTION: Who didn't? (*The wicked servant*) Why? (*He wanted forgiven, but he wouldn't to it himself. He was mean, because the king didn't beat him like he did the man who owed him!*)

b. God Said Pray Forgiveness.

QUESTION: Who can tell me the Lord's prayer from memory? *(Pick a student to say it. If none know it, then this is a good time to turn to Matthew 6:9 and learn it!)*

(Show them the part closely in verse 12 about forgiveness)
God wants forgiveness to be right where we can get to it very quickly and easily.

QUESTION: Who has a favorite toy that you play with a lot? What is it? Do you keep it in a place that's hard to get to or in a place that you can get it quickly? *(Hopefully, quickly!)*

God wants us to do that with your forgiveness. He wants us to keep it in a part of our hearts that is easy to get to. When somebody hurts us or makes us mad, then we need forgiveness right there where we can get a hold of it—not where it's covered up and we have to work hard to get to it.

2. How to Forgive.

QUESTION: We have already read today how many times we need to forgive someone when they do bad things to us. What did Jesus say? *(Seventy times seven)*

QUESTION: Do you think Jesus meant that we should keep count of how many times we forgive someone? *(No!)*

Jesus just wants us to be forgiving all the time—no matter what. He doesn't just want us to forgive someone for the little things, but also the big things too. He wants us to forgive other from deep down in our hearts so that it will never come back again.

3. Why Should You Forgive?

QUESTION: How important do you think forgiveness really is? *(Extremely important!)*

Forgiveness is very important to us. If we say that we love others but we do not forgive them, then we are really lying. We're just saying words. We show love for others when we *do* it. Did you know that your actions can tell others the truth about you? Actions will tell on you every time. *(Demonstrate this. Tell the class some different things, and let your actions tell a different story. Example: Last week [whoever] really hurt me, but I forgave them. Say something like this while gritting your teeth, rolling your eyes, and firmly crossing your arms.) Think up several things before class—even somewhere your actions and words match.)*

QUESTION: What are some reasons why you should forgive others? (*Let the children respond.*)

Let's see how we did.

- a. **So people will forgive you: Luke 6:27.** Just as we read earlier today, people are a lot more willing to forgive a forgiving person. It takes a lot more to forgive someone when they make it hard to be loved. Still, God didn't ask us just to forgive when it's easy, but also when it's hard.
- b. **So that God will forgive you: Matthew 6:14.** God is serious about forgiveness. He forgave all of us who believe in Jesus, and He sure didn't have to do that. He let His Son Jesus die on a cross for our sins, and He forgave us. In return, God expects us to forgive everything everybody has ever done to us.
- c. **So your sins will be forgiven: Matthew 6:15.** Always remember that God doesn't play games. He will not let us slide on this one. If you want to go to heaven, then you have to forgive everyone—*everyone*. Forgiveness is the only way in to heaven. Jesus forgives us for our sins, and He wants us to do just like He does—forgive everyone. He is just like the king in the Parable of the unmerciful servant. If He catches us not forgiving others (and He always does), then He will throw us out just like the king in the story threw out the bad servant.
- d. **So God will hear your prayers: Mark 11:25.** God simply will not listen to us if we do not obey His Word. Sometimes we have to remind ourselves which of us is God—Him or us? God says that He will take care of anyone sins against us. That's His job. Judging or not forgiving others is not our job. He said, "Love them all. That's your job!"
- e. **Because Jesus died on the cross to forgive *our* sins and mistakes: Ephesians 1:7.** Jesus is the greatest forgiver of all. He said, "I'm going to give my life so that everyone who believes in me will be forgiven and get to live forever in heaven. What a wonderful gift! Imagine what that must have been like. He died so we could live.

4. Being Able To Forgive

Apostle Paul said this in his letter to the Colossians: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever [troubles] you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you”, Colossians 3:13. It’s one thing to want to forgive someone, but it’s sometimes quite another getting it done.

QUESTION: If we are having trouble forgiving someone, then what should we do? (*Pray for Jesus to help us. Allow the Holy Spirit to come into our lives.*)

Jesus will certainly help us forgive if we ask Him to. He wants to see us happy too. We can’t be so happy when we can’t forgive. All of that hate just backs up in our hearts until we are a mess! But Jesus can take it all away. Sometimes when we ask him, He will show us how He sees the person that we want to forgive. When we see how sad it makes Jesus to see that person the way they are, then we can feel love for them too.

There’s another way to love people that hurt you that’s every bit as good as asking Jesus for His help. It’s God’s Holy Spirit! Once we let Him into our lives, then we are made strong in the Lord. That means that things don’t make us so mad when they happen. We can just be happy because we know that we just need to please God by doing right.

5. Prayer Time

If there are children in the class that do not have Jesus in their heart, then give them the opportunity now.

Next, have the children close their eyes, and ask them if there is any of them that would like to have Jesus help them forgive someone. If there are hands, then lead them all in a group prayer of forgiveness, and to have Jesus help them.

Ask if there is anyone who would like to receive God’s Holy Spirit so they can be powered up to forgive.

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