



UNIT 33 | SESSION 3

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

2 CORINTHIANS 5

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus can forgive anyone.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.

MEMORY VERSE

God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

One theme Paul wrote about in the book of 2 Corinthians is the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. He shared of his own need for reconciliation with God and how he — like us — had been tasked with taking part in the Lord's ministry of reconciliation. Being a part of God's family means bringing others into His kingdom, too.

How can anyone be forgiven of their sins? What does it look like to live as one forgiven by God?

Like Paul, we are all in need of the Lord's forgiveness because we have all sinned against Him. Paul reminded the Corinthian church that forgiveness of sins has been made possible through Christ's perfect sacrifice. It is faith in Jesus alone that reconciles us to God, and it is faith in Jesus by which our sins are not counted against us. Through Jesus' willing sacrifice on our behalf, He was made sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Thus, forgiveness is given to anyone who turns to Christ as Savior and Lord.

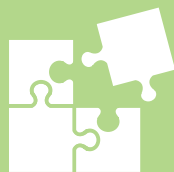
Paul continued to encourage the Corinthians to live as forgiven people who are compelled by the love of Christ to share the gospel with others. No longer should we live for ourselves, seeking after the ways of the world. Rather, we live as new creations, set on making much of Jesus and declaring how only He can reconcile us to God. The hearts of forgiven people saved by grace have a deep desire for others to know the love of Jesus and be saved.

As you prepare for this session, consider the forgiveness you've received from God. How has repentance played a role in your life as a believer? What is your testimony of being brought from death to life, and how can you share it with the children in your class? Ask God to make the reality of His power to save and forgive real in the hearts and minds of your class today.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Christ as Reconciliation: Through Christ's death, God provides the means whereby the broken relationship between God and humanity is restored and renewed.

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY #1: MAKE A J

Place containers of play dough out for children to use. Demonstrate how to make a letter J with the play dough.

Guide children to roll the play dough into the shape of a rope, then show them how to curve the rope into the shape of the letter J.

Some children may enjoy creating other letters, such as the letters of their name. Older children may want to work together to spell the name Jesus with the play dough.

CONNECT THE DOTS



You made the letter J. J is the first letter in Jesus. Paul reminded Jesus' followers in the church that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. God made us right through Jesus. God loves us, and He wants us to tell people about Jesus.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins. Jesus can forgive everyone no matter where they live, what they look like, or what wrong things they have done. I am so thankful Jesus can save and forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him.

ACTIVITY #2: STAND IN A SQUARE

Tape a large square on the floor. Invite children to stand around the square. Say something such as, "Jesus can forgive boys wearing blue shirts. If you have a blue shirt, stand inside the square."

Repeat with other descriptions until all of the children are in the square. Ask, "Who can Jesus forgive?" Lead children to respond, "Everyone!" Play again if time allows.

CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

CRAFT: MAKE AN EDIBLE LEI

Supplies: cord, colorful cheerios

Cut the cord into 18-inch strands, then cover one end of the cord with tape and tie the other end into a knot to create a stopper.

Give each child a piece of cord and a plate with several cheerios. Tell children they can make an edible lei by stringing the cereal on the cord.

Allow children to secure the ends of their leis and to eat the items of their edible lei if they want. Close in prayer, thanking God for missionaries who tell people about Jesus.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Your leis look delicious! Betsey Stockton and Charles and Harriet Stewart were part of a missionary team that traveled to Hawaii. Betsey taught children in a school until they had to go back home due to Harriet's health. They returned home and Betsey continued to teach children in school and share about God and His Son, Jesus. Just like Paul and these missionaries taught others about Jesus, we're called to tell others about Jesus too.





PREPARE

Open your Bible to **2 Corinthians 5** and tell the following story.

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

Paul wrote letters to the church at Corinth. In his second letter, Paul encouraged Jesus' followers in the church. He reminded them that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. God loves us, and He wants us to tell people about Jesus.

Paul used to be an enemy of God, but Jesus saved him! Apart from Jesus, all sinners are enemies of God. Paul wanted to share the good news that Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.

Paul wrote, "We want to obey God and tell people about Jesus because Jesus loves us. We love Him too!" Paul wanted others to hear the gospel so they might hear and believe in Jesus.

Jesus changes everything. Paul's life was not easy, but he was glad that his life was honoring to God. Paul wrote, "When we follow Jesus, we are changed. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"

Then Paul wrote, "Everything is from God, who has made us right through Jesus." Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Jesus gave up His life to rescue sinners, and God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice.

God gives us the mission of bringing others to Him through Jesus. Paul wrote, "We are ambassadors for Christ. God can use us to reach other people. We can tell others, 'Be made right with God. He made Jesus — who never sinned — to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we could be right with God.'"

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What is the mission God has given us?
4. Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to Room 108

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!