

Forgiveness

5-Minute - Ice Breaker:

1. Tell: *Introduce Yourself*
2. Share: *Personal Story of Forgiveness*
3. Ask: *Raise your hand if you have ever made a mistake.*
4. Tell: *We make mistakes when we say or do things that are wrong and offend others, sometimes other people say or do things that are wrong and hurt us, when that happens, what should we do to erase those mistakes?*
5. Tell: *What should be done is to ask for forgiveness if we have made a mistake or to forgive others if they have offended us.*

5- Minute - Share the Joseph Story: Genesis 37-45; *Genesis 50:20 says "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."*

5 - Minute - Let's Talk About Forgiveness

1. Ask: *Let's Talk About Forgiveness - What is forgiveness?*
2. Tell: *To forgive someone is a very difficult thing to do, especially if you have been hurt. It takes courage to forgive a person who has hurt you.*
Ask: *What happens when we don't want to forgive?*
3. Tell: *Failing to forgive hardens your heart, and creates anger, resentment, and many other feelings that never do anything good for you or anybody else. That is why it is important to forgive, even though it is difficult.*
4. Ask: *But what do you think is more difficult: to forgive or to ask for forgiveness?*
5. Tell: *The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness. One of Jesus' closest disciples once asked him about this subject.*

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5 - Minute - Share the Merciful King Story: Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21-22

Peter wanted to know if there were limits to forgiveness and Jesus basically replied that you always should forgive. To explain this point, Jesus tells a story.

Matthew 18:23-27

The first part of the story can be summoned up like this: The king had mercy and forgave a debt that was impossible for his servant to pay.

Matthew 18:28-30

The second part of the story can be summoned up like this: The one who was forgiven an enormous debt, did not want to forgive another who owed him much less.

Matthew 18:31-35

The third part of the story can be summed up like this: The king is angry and punishes the one who received forgiveness of a large debt but did not want to forgive another in his small debt.

The King represents God who forgives us in the multitude of our mistakes. The least we can do is forgive the mistakes of others. The Bible teaches us that forgiveness is the correct response when someone has hurt us. We may think we are good people, but the truth is that we all make many mistakes that offend God.

5 - Minute - Share the First and Last Sacrifice Story: *"I know that my sins are forgiven because God made a way by forgiving our sins through the sacrifice and blood of the Lamb: Jesus Christ."*