



Bible Thematic Lessons

from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Thematic Lesson.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:
FORGIVENESS



Read the Bible References: The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To encourage students to accept forgiveness from God and give the gift of forgiveness to men.



Lesson Takeaway:

Before you can be forgiven, you need to confess your sins. After you have been forgiven, you should keep forgiving those who hurt you.



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Date:



Topic:

FORGIVENESS



Bible References:

Genesis 50:15 - 21; Mark 11:25 – 26,
Matthew 18:21 – 35.



Explain the meaning of forgiveness.

When someone says or does something bad to you, you feel hurt. When you let go of the hurt, overlook the wrong thing the other person did to you, or stop blaming them for the wrong action, then, it means you have forgiven them.

So, to forgive is to show love and mercy, to free someone else from guilt and blame, or to let go of hurt and pain someone else caused you.



What does the bible say about forgiveness?

Before someone is forgiven, or asks for forgiveness, it means he or she has done something wrong. According to the bible, we understand that “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Also, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). This is the first thing we need to understand and accept – that you and I have sinned against God. Since we have sinned, we need forgiveness so that we can be free from the guilt and pain caused by sin.

The bible also says that “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). God is assuring us that if we confess our sins, he will forgive us.



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What does the bible say about forgiveness? (Contd.)

We don't have to live in guilt when we know that our loving God is always willing and ready to forgive our sins, faults, and mistakes. He gives us the freedom to live a clean life, a life that has experienced forgiveness— like we had never done anything wrong. How amazing is God's love for us!

In Psalm 103:10 – 14, we understand the depth of God's love for us. He does not deal with us according to our sins. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion.



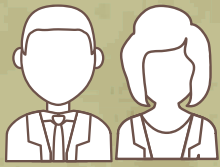
How can we accept and give forgiveness today?

Some people find it difficult to accept forgiveness. This could be because of unbelief, lack of assurance, or lack of understanding of what Jesus already did for them.

To accept forgiveness, you need to first believe that God loves you. You also need to believe that Jesus paid the price for your sins and is offering you forgiveness for free (see John 3:16; Romans 10: 9 -10).

In addition, you need to believe that once you are forgiven of the sins you have confessed, God does not bring the guilt back in your face. He gives you the grace and freedom to live a life free from the guilt and condemnation of sin (Isaiah 43:25, Psalm 103:12; Hebrews 10:17). Don't give the devil a chance. It's the devil that gets busy reminding you of your guilt and sin. When you hear the devil remind you of your sin and guilt, remind him that Jesus already paid the price, and you are free! You can say that out loud – you are forgiven and free!

As someone who has received the offer of forgiveness from God, it is our responsibility to forgive those who hurt us. In Colossians 3:13, we are encouraged to “bear with one another” and “forgive one another” even as Christ has forgiven us. So, we don't just accept forgiveness from God, but we also forgive men.



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How can we accept and give forgiveness today? (contd).

What if we refuse to forgive those who hurt us? Well, in Matthew 6:14 – 15, we understand that if we don't forgive others, we will not be forgiven too. In addition, in Matthew 5:23 – 24, if we don't forgive others, whatever we give to God as gifts or offerings will not be accepted.

People will always offend us, either intentionally or unintentionally (see Luke 17:1 – 4). Since we have received God's offer of forgiveness, we can learn to show love (see 1 John 4:11) and mercy (see Matthew 5:7) just as we have also been given love and mercy. We can forgive those who hurt us as often as we should, and as often as they ask for forgiveness (see Matthew 18:21 – 22).

We can learn from the lives of Joseph (see Genesis 50:15 – 21), the King who forgave his servant (Matthew 18:21 – 35), and the father of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11 – 32) as we read about how they forgave even when it was difficult to forgive. Is forgiveness always easy? No, it can sometimes be difficult. We need to always ask God for His grace to forgive others and even forgive ourselves.

Jesus is our perfect model of forgiveness. Even on the cross, as He was dying, He prayed for those hurting and killing Him to be forgiven (Luke 23:34).

Finally, forgiveness is available, but it is not automatic. Before you can be forgiven, you need to confess your sins. You receive forgiveness by faith in the word of God that says, "if you confess, God is faithful and just to forgive you" (1 John 1:9).



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Memorize:

Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.



Questions:

- i. Mention five people in the bible who forgave those who hurt them.
- ii. Read Matthew 18:21 – 22. How often should we forgive those who hurt us? What if they keep hurting us?



Remember: Before you can be forgiven, you need to confess your sins. After you have been forgiven, you should keep forgiving those who hurt you.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You because as I confess my sins to you, you forgive me. Help me to always remember that I am forgiven and can live a life free from guilt. Give me the grace to also forgive those who offend and hurt me. I ask these in Jesus' name. Amen.



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