

FORGIVENESS

Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

WEEK ONE
K-5TH

READ 1 JOHN 1:9

DAY 1

Find a REALLY dirty penny and let's perform a little science experiment. Ask an adult for some lemon juice or ketchup from the kitchen. Place that dirty penny into the bottom of the bowl, squeeze in some lemon juice or ketchup and let it sit while we talk about this verse

This month is all about forgiveness. Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. That's really easy to say, but it's super hard to actually do. Because when someone hurts you, you might want that person to hurt, too. But God wants us to choose forgiveness instead.

And guess what? You can choose to forgive for one super important reason: God forgives you. Let's go back to your penny for a second. Lift it out of the bowl, rinse it off in the sink and dry with a paper towel. Does it look shiny and new? We are all like that once-dirty penny. If we confess or tell God what we've done and ask for forgiveness, he promises to make us pure, just like that pretty shiny penny.

THANK God for choosing to forgive so that we can also forgive others.

READ PSALM 103:8-10

DAY 2

When someone does something that bugs you, are you quick to respond in anger? Do you stay mad until the other person apologizes? Do you want to pay back wrong for wrong? In other words, when someone does something that hurts you or they let you down, is your first instinct to get back at them?

Take a look at this verse. In the space below, complete the phrases about God.

The Lord is _____ and _____. He is _____. He is slow to get _____.
He is full of _____. He won't keep bringing _____
against us. He won't stay _____ with us forever. He doesn't _____
us for our sins as much as we should be _____. He doesn't _____
_____ in keeping with the evil things we've done. (NirV)

So now that you know how God responds when you do something wrong, how should you respond when someone hurts you? God forgives you. He is slow to anger and full of love for you. So knowing how He chooses to treat you, how should you treat others?

ASK God to help you forgive as He's forgiven you.

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READ PSALM 86:5

DAY 3

Have you ever messed up really bad? Whatever the situation and whatever the mess up, there is good news. When you are truly sorry and ask God to forgive you, He will. Remember, the promises we read in the Bible are true. God doesn't choose to forgive some things and not others. He is forgiving and good. He is full of love for all who call out to Him. He will not stop forgiving you, loving you, or being anything other than who He is.

Grab a piece of paper and draw a large heart in the center of the page. Write the words of this verse in crazy letters and then decorate your heart any way you choose. Put your heart next to your bed as a reminder this week that when you ask, God will forgive you.

LISTEN to the promises of God and trust that they are true.

READ PSALM 130:4

DAY 4

Who is the "you" in this verse? Who forgives? And who can you serve with respect? God! What if God wasn't always forgiving? What if He were more like us—forgiving in certain situations but not so forgiving in others? The good news is that God isn't like us. He is loving and kind, always. When we mess up and ask for forgiveness, then forgiveness is what we get. God will forgive you, no matter what the mistake. And that is why He is so deserving of all respect and honor and praise.

Use the key to fill in the blanks below.

" _____ x è y é x + é î v ✓ ê u ≈ é

∞ u n ç p ≈ u î ê u y é x

∞ ✓ è ★ î u ≈ ñ u n è . Psalm 130:4, NIV

A - ç	H - ★	S - ≈	E - u	O - é
B - x	I - ✓	T - è	F - +	P - ñ
C - n	N - p	U - x	G - v	R - î
V - ê	W - ∞	Y - y		

KNOW that God is worthy of respect because He forgives.