

Things to take:

- Question box with pens & paper.
- Door welcome sign, register & rules.
- Cardboard toilet seats & taped toilet roll balls.
- A tray of objects and a tea towel.
- Salt dough plaques & paints **or** Zig zag cards & coloured pencils **plus spares**.
- A big bowl, full of jelly beans.
- Two small bowls per team & chopsticks/teaspoons.
- Rotten apple (see Talk for how to prepare.)
- Cardboard cross & drawing pins.
- Song and PowerPoint.

Session Aim:

To show that because we have been forgiven by God, we should also forgive others.

‘Our father in Heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive others who sin against us.’

Matthew 6:9-12

Game as they arrive and register: Toilet Bowl Game

Construct one or two toilet seat-and-lid combinations out of thick cardboard (better yet, use real toilet seats). Prop them open so the lids serve as backboards. Give every person a taped up ball of toilet roll. They take it in turns to try to throw their ball into the toilet seat. They get 3 points for getting the ball straight through the seat and 1 point if the ball goes through the seat after bouncing off the seat or backboard. The person with the most points wins.

Explain that when we say sorry for something, we get rid of it, just like flushing it down the toilet!

Game: Tray Memory Game

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Have a number of objects on a tray covered with a tea towel. Uncover the tray and give the children 1 minute to try to memorise all of the objects. Cover the tray again, and give them 1 minute to try to write down as many objects as they can remember.

Explain that, when we are forgiven, God doesn't try to remember all the bad things we have done; instead he says that he will forget them. When we say we forgive someone, we should try to forget the thing they did wrong too.

Rules & Question Box

Memory verse: Salt dough painting/ Zig zag cards - Matthew 6:11

This week the words to paint/write are 'As we forgive others who sin against us'.

N.B. bring some spares for anyone who missed a week.

Bible bit: Matthew 18:21-35

Get 4 children to act out the story as you read it – the king, the first servant, the second servant, the servant who reports back to the king.

Read the story from a child-friendly version of the Bible such as the Contemporary English Version which is available online at www.biblegateway.com

Talk:

What did we talk about last week? – That we have been forgiven for the things we have done wrong because Jesus died on the cross.

The Bible says that because we have been forgiven by God, we should also forgive other people, and we need to be willing to forgive them as much as God has forgiven us, from the bottom of our hearts. Luke 6:37-38 says 'Forgive others, and God will forgive you. If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you

treat others is the way you will be treated.’ (CEV) Show the big bowl full of jelly beans – Imagine each jelly bean is something God has forgiven me for. Take a spoonful of jelly beans out – If God has forgiven me this much (bowlful), how can I only forgive my friend this much (spoonful).

Why should we forgive others? Aside from the fact the Bible tells us to, not forgiving people can make us bitter on the inside, because we keep on remembering what they did and feeling hurt/angry about it again and again. We might seem OK on the outside, but we aren’t right on the inside. Cut in half an apple that has been prepared earlier to be brown/black on the inside. (Core the apple and leave the centre out to go brown, or use ink to colour it, then replace it within the apple.)

Sometimes it can be difficult to forgive people, and we can only do it with God’s help. That’s why in the Lord’s Prayer we pray ‘forgive us our sins, as we forgive others.’

Testimony:

Sometimes it can be difficult to forgive someone when we have been hurt – even if we want to forgive someone, it can be hard to forget what they did, so we have to forgive them in our heart again. Get a leader to share about a time when they found forgiving and forgetting difficult.

Response: Pin it to the cross

Have a cross cut out of thick cardboard at the front. Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Working on their own, get them to write or draw someone or something that has made them hurt/angry. Encourage them to ask God to help them forgive this person, then come and pin it (folded in half) onto the cross. You could play some quiet worship music during this time.

Pray

Choose a prayer activity from the creative prayer ideas in the ‘extras’ section of the download, and continue with your prayer journal.

Song & Actions: Love

The song is available to download free from the resources section of the YoYo website under ‘songs’. The PowerPoint is in the ‘songs’ folder of the download. We made up our own actions for this song so you could do the same or we are very happy to teach you ours! This song was written and recorded by Danny Sewell at The Rock Church York.

Game: Jelly Bean Relay

For each team, set up two bowls, one empty and one containing jelly beans. The team take it in turns to run up and move one jelly bean to the empty bowl using chopsticks or the wrong end of a teaspoon (make sure you watch out for anyone using the right end of the teaspoon!). The winners are the team who transfer the most in the allotted time. The team then get to share out and eat the jelly beans that they transferred.

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.