



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

October 30-31, 2021

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

God Is – Week 6 (Forgiving)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God is forgiving.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 18:21-22; Mark 11:25;
Psalm 34:18; 1 John 1:9;
Romans 10:9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"The Number Game"

This game is just one video – each student will think of a number between 1-10 and they must use that number throughout the entire game. They CANNOT change it. The video will pick a number and if it's their number, they're out. When all numbers have been eliminated and it's down to the last two numbers, the video says whatever number is displayed is the winner (rather than being out). Give the winner(s) a prize!

*****Make sure to test the technology before playing the game!!**

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Since it's our Pre-Winter Party weekend, what is your favorite fall (uh, I mean Pre-Winter) activity?

When you're finished (if there's time left), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

So glad you are all here at Northview Students! How many of you have a pet in your house? Let's get specific...how many of you have a dog? Dogs can be really funny when they get caught doing something they know they shouldn't be doing. I mean, just look at this picture... **(Leaders Note: Show guilty dog picture)**

You can just see it in his eyes how sorry he is. Poor guy! Even though he's an animal, you can see some regret and remorse for chewing up the remote control. Most people who have dogs will just simply forgive the dog and move on like it's no big deal. Somewhere inside, you think, "He/She didn't mean to. They're just an animal. They didn't do it on purpose."

However, when it comes to people...and being hurt, or let down, or betrayed by people...it is much harder to forgive them, isn't it? I mean, people should know better. People have intent. People know what they're doing or saying is wrong (at least most of the time), and then they do it anyway, right? That's why it hurts so much.

(Leaders Note: Describe a time in your life where you were hurt by someone and faced the decision of whether or not to forgive them.)

As you can probably tell, today's topic is all about forgiveness. There's one thing that's true about forgiveness: it's very difficult. VERY difficult. To some of us, it feels unfair and impossible. You might think, "That person doesn't deserve to be forgiven! You have no idea what they did to me." You know what...you're right. They probably don't deserve it. However, ALL of us are imperfect and by the world's standards, none of us deserve to be forgiven. Our culture doesn't have any resources to teach us about forgiveness and why it would be important. It would be better to hurt them back or get revenge. Make them suffer or hurt.

For this last week of our "God Is" series, I want you all to know that something has already happened to you...something you may not even know about yet. You have been forgiven by God. No, it's true. A perfect God has forgiven an imperfect YOU and an imperfect ME. That's where I want to go today for our THP (or Take Home Point).

God is forgiving.

God forgives us every time we do something wrong. A perfect God! If anyone has the right to not forgive someone, it would be a perfect God, but Christianity teaches that God is perfect in love, perfect in mercy, perfect in justice, and perfect in forgiveness!

THE MESSAGE

This doesn't make sense to so many of us and it didn't make sense to the disciples of Jesus. One of them, Peter, says this in the New Testament in Matthew 18:21-22: *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven.'"*

Now, that doesn't literally mean that you can forgive up to 490 times...and then you don't have to anymore! Jesus's point to Peter is that we need to ALWAYS forgive.

Jesus then goes on to tell this story about a servant who received mercy and forgiveness from a king even when he owed him a lot of money. The servant is super thankful. However, a friend of the servant owed him money as well (a much smaller amount) and when he finds out, he is furious and throws him into jail until he can come up with the money. The king hears about it and calls the servant out, saying, "Ohhhhh, so YOU want all of the forgiveness for YOUR sins, but then you're not willing to give that same forgiveness to anyone else?" He ends up throwing the servant into jail. Jesus then says that God will treat us the same way if we are unwilling to forgive other people.

Students...forgiveness is wonderful because it shows us that God forgives us not based on how sorry we are or on how bad the sin is – He forgives us because Jesus Christ received the punishment for our sin already on the cross. Therefore, the forgiveness He gives us should lead us to repent (which means to turn away or change). It should also lead us to kindness, mercy, and forgiveness towards other people.

Let me give you another example: you know that kid in your class or school who is always getting in trouble for major things, but then the first time you forget to ask your teacher to go to the bathroom, that kid is like, "Oh, Mr/Mrs. So-And-So, he/she didn't ask to go to the bathroom! He/She should get detention because that's the rule!" You think, "Oh, NOW the rules are really important to you." Jesus is essentially saying the same thing: we can't experience God's forgiveness and then be unwilling to share it with other people.

Students, when you are unwilling to show forgiveness to others (after receiving forgiveness), it shows you really haven't experienced it and don't really get it.

Now, you might be thinking, "I can't forgive this person for what they've done for me. They're not even sorry about it. They'll just continue to hurt me if I forgive them." I can understand how you feel. However, even though the person SHOULD change, and it will be easier for you to forgive them if they DO change, forgiveness isn't dependent on their behavior. Jesus talks about this in the New Testament in Mark 11:25: *"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your sins."*

The idea of forgiveness might be popular, but the act of forgiveness will rarely be popular.

THE MESSAGE

Six years ago, a man went into a church in Charleston, South Carolina and killed several people. At the trial, the people who survived (parents, siblings, children, friends) publicly forgave the man who did these terrible things. When the story came out about what they had done, many were shocked at their reaction. Our focus will not be on the actual incident, but rather what happened afterward. I want to show you a short video clip of an interview of some of the women who survived the shooting, but lost people they loved. Listen to what they say about Jesus and this idea of forgiveness...

(Teacher's Note: Show "Charleston Women on Forgiveness" message video)

It's important to me that we make a distinction right here from the beginning: forgiving is not forgetting. When we forgive someone, it doesn't automatically make the pain, anger, or grief go away. Just like the women were saying in the video clip, forgiveness is a process. The reason this man did these things was because of racism, which he admitted during the trial. That's why we as Christians should do everything we can to stamp out racism in all forms. It makes the forgiveness of these people even more powerful, but the reality is they still live with the hurt of the situation.

Many of you have been hurt by friends and family. Some of them were sorry, repented, and didn't do it again. Other people said they were sorry, but they didn't change. Other people weren't sorry at all. That's really hard. If that's you and your situation, I'm so sorry. It says in the Old Testament in Psalm 34:18, *"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* If you need someone to talk to about that, our life group leaders or student pastors/staff would love to listen to your situation and talk with you.

Even though many of us hurt over things done to us, the reality is many of us are guilty of doing the same thing to someone else. Let me take it one step further: all of us are guilty of sinning against God. The punishment for that is death, but instead of God putting us to death, He allowed His only Son, Jesus Christ, to be put to death on the cross on our behalf. It is the greatest act of love and forgiveness the world has ever seen.

The New Testament writer, John, tells us in 1 John 1:9 – *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* Another New Testament writer, Paul, says this in Romans 10:9 – *"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* That means all we have to do is accept this gift of forgiveness and we can start a relationship with God that will bring us hope, faith, love, and endless second chances.

(Leaders Note: Transition into Gospel Presentation to close out the message)

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was it important during the message?

According to what you heard in the message today, what is the importance of God forgiving us? What about us forgiving other people?

Have you ever experienced forgiveness from someone? What happened and how did you react?

Have you experienced God's forgiveness before? If you feel comfortable sharing, describe the situation and why you felt like you needed God's forgiveness.

What did you think of the video we watched today about the women talking about forgiveness? What did you learn from that?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Congratulate those students in your group who made a first-time decision to follow Jesus today! Encourage them that this is the best decision they could ever make, and this group can be an awesome support system for them as they begin their journey.

Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister