

Topic - FORGIVENESS

Grade: Best Suited for 4th & 5th grade

Topic: Forgiveness

Materials Needed: Bible

1. **Opening Prayer:** Thank God for the day at camp.

2. **Devotional Message Points:**

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

3. **Discussion Questions:**

Questions that pertain to the story itself (to make sure they understood and were listening).

We forgive others because God forgave us.

Questions to discuss how the story relates to the campers and/or their week at camp.

Ask the campers to tell a time that they forgave someone.

How does forgiving others make you feel?

Ask the campers how forgiving someone else makes you feel?

Questions that show how God, Jesus, and/or being a Christian fit in.

God Forgive us and always Loves us, can talk about his unconditional love –
John 3:16

Relate to our parents forgiving us and loving us

4. **Close in Prayer:**

Thanks God for His forgiveness and His unconditional Love & Lord’s Prayer

5. **Highs & Lows:**

Topic - FORGIVENESS

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 9th grade

Topic: Forgiveness

Materials Needed: Bible

1. Opening Prayer:

Open in a popcorn prayer having the group sharing things they are thankful for being at camp this week. *“Thank God for bringing all the campers together and blessing us with a great day at camp.”*

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Matthew 18:21-35

Mark 11:25 *“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”*

- *Every day we sin and are in need of Christ’s forgiveness. So, then we must forgive others who sin against us just as we sin against Christ.*
- *The dictionary definition of forgiveness is: to pardon. Pardon means the excuse of an offense; free from penalty.*

3. Discussion Questions:

- Ask the campers what they think forgiveness is. Discuss this for a moment.
- Name a time when you have been forgiven by someone.
- How does it feel to be forgiven?
- Have you ever held a grudge and not forgiven someone?
- Have you ever NOT been forgiven for something you did? How does that feel?
- What would be the hardest thing for you to forgive?
- Is it easier to forgive family or friends?
- How many times did Jesus say to forgive someone?
- What happen when the servant did not show the same mercy he was shown?
- Why show we forgive our Christian brothers and sisters? (Mark 11:25)

4. Role Plays: You create the solution.

- You lied to a friend about what you did last Friday. You told him/her that you were busy, but actually you had a date with another friend. Your friend finds out.
- Your sister/brother borrows a favorite sweatshirt of yours and ruins it.
- You’re the parent of teenager and he/she comes home really late.
- Think up your own scenario.

5. Close in Prayer:

Squeeze prayer: Ask for forgiveness for our sins, Thank God for the campers and for all the fun we have had today. Help us to have another great day tomorrow. Please help us to forgive as you have forgiven us. AMEN.

6. Highs & Lows:

Topic – LOVE ONE ANOTHER “Good Samaritan”

Grade: Best Suited for 2nd - 5th grade

Topic: Love your neighbor

Materials Needed: Bible

1. Opening Prayer:

Thank God for the day and ask Him to be with us as we begin our devotions.

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

(You can have kids tell a modern day parable with the same meaning)

- Loving God means loving your neighbor.
- The Golden rule: *“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”*
- *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” – Luke 10:27*

3. Discussion Questions:

- What happen to the man heading from Jerusalem to Jericho?
- What did the priest do to help?
- What did the Levite do to help?
- Who did the Samaritan do to help?
- Why do you think Jesus told us this story?
- Have you ever seen something like this happen at school that you didn't step in and stop? Why didn't you?
- What would you have done if you would have passed the man?

4. Close in Prayer:

Pray about helping others and loving God with all your heart, mind and soul.

Challenge your campers to do something nice for someone the next day that they would not normally do.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – MAKING JUDGMENTS

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 9th grade

Topic: Judging

Materials Needed: Bible, 15 pictures of individuals from magazines, scotch tape, blank paper, pencils

1. Opening Prayer:

Thank you for this awesome day at camp and all of the memories we have made this day.

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5 *“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye”*

- We are not perfect people. We all have faults, weakness, different looks and abilities. Despite our imperfections, we are all worthy, lovable and special through the eyes of Jesus. It is the unconditional love that we receive from Jesus that call us to accept and love our neighbor for who they are.
- Place the 15 pictures around the cabin. Have each pictured numbered. Each camper should see each picture and write down a description of each person. (The campers should record things like occupation, temperament, quiet, loud, shy, outgoing, could be a good friend, athletic, bookworm, stuffy, funny, stuck-up, nice etc.)

3. Discussion Questions:

- Choose 5 of those 15 people you'd like to get to know. Why did you choose those 5?
- Who would be your least favorite person? Why?
- You must pick one of those people to marry. Who? Why?
- Can you think of a time in school when someone judged you unfairly? How did you feel?
- Why do you think we judge others?
- What does Jesus mean by judging the “speck” in your neighbor’s eye but not noticing the “log” in your own eye?

4. Close in Prayer:

Dear Lord, Please give us the power to accept everyone .We all have our difference and we are all your children. Let us say the prayer that you taught us...Lord Prayer.

Challenge your campers: Get to know someone that you would ordinarily be tempted to judge based on their appearance, popularity, etc. See if you can look past the surface and learn to understand your differences.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – MAKING JUDGMENTS

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 9th grade

Topic: Judging

Materials Needed: Bible, Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul Journal

1. Opening Prayer:

Popcorn Prayer

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Matthew 7:1-5: *“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye”*

Luke: 6:37-38: *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”*

Read: “The Heart has eyes which the brain knows nothing”- Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul Journal p.219

3. Discussion Questions:

- What does the story mean by “seeing with your heart”?
- Why is it a good idea to not judge others we know nothing about?
- Why do we judge others?
- What are some other ways you can show kindness to others while here at camp?
- Why do you think God wants us to not be Judgmental towards others?

4. Close in Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – FRIENDSHIP

Grade: Best Suited for 4th - 9th grade

Topic: Friendship

Materials Needed: Bible,

1. Opening Prayer:

We thank you for the new friendship we are making this week. We pray that you help us continue grow in those friendships.

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

I Samuel 18:1 “When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.” (Sometimes friends bond immediately, most of the time; friendships need to build love, trust and understanding)

I Samuel 19:1-7. (Friends need to stick up for each other)

Job 2:11-13 (Friends need to support others friends in times of need. Friends also need to recognize when other friends just want someone to listen or to keep their space)

Tell campers about Job: Job was a very good man. Even God said that Job was one of the finest the world had to offer. Job was also a very rich man. Satan said to God, “But take away everything he has and he will surely curse you to your face!” Then God told Satan that he may test Job, but not hurt him physically, Job had everything taken from him, even his family. In reply to this terrible tragedy, Job said, “I came naked from my mother’s womb, and I will be stripped of everything when I die. The Lord gave me everything I had and the Lord taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord.”

3. Discussion Questions:

- What is friendship? How do you define it?
- What makes a good friend? Qualities of a good friend?
- Why do we need friends?
- Describe the perfect friendship.
- Describe a lousy friendship.
- Name some of the qualities of a successful friendship that the following verses suggest.

4. Close in Prayer:

Thank you for the friendship in our lives. Thank you for the friendship we have with you. Help us to be good friends. Amen.

Challenge your campers to meet someone new and show the characteristics of being a good friend.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – LOVE EVERYONE: Zacchaeus

Grade: Best Suited for 2nd - 5th grade

Topic: Love and Acceptance

Materials Needed: Bible

1. Opening Prayer:

Thank You God for giving us such a wonderful day here at camp. Today's activities were fun and it really brought us closer as a cabin. Thank you for all the great meals we had today and all the time we got to spend playing games. Thank you for keeping us safe and allowing us to have a fun day! Amen

2. Mixture/Name Game: M& M Game: using the M&M's doing questions with the different colors of M&M's.

3. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Luke 19:1-10

- Kindness towards others
- Bullying
- Including others
- God love everybody and he wants us to love each other.

4. Discussion Questions:

- Who was Zacchaeus? What was his job? What did he do that was bad?
- Why didn't people like him? (He was a tax collector and they had a reputation for taking too much money for taxes and keeping it.)
- Why do you think he changed his ways?
- Why were the people angry with Jesus? (They were angry because they didn't understand why Jesus was being nice to someone they didn't like.)
- Think of a person in your school who other kids don't like. Why don't they like him/her?
- Have you ever been kind to someone who others didn't like?
- How did you feel?
- Have you ever done something bad? (taken a toy without permission)
- What did you do to make it better? (Sorry)
- Do you like being treated kindly?
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5. Close in Prayer:

After talking about this bible verse we ask for you to help us tomorrow with our challenge and give us the opportunity to make someone feel special. Please keep us safe tomorrow and have the weather be nice. Continue to help us bond as a cabin and fill all of our hearts with love. We ask that you keep all of our loved ones safe while we are away at camp. In your name we pray, Amen!

Challenge your campers for the next day to spend time being kind to someone here at camp who doesn't have many good friends at camp. Be ready to tell us all tomorrow how it went and how it made you feel.

6. Highs & Lows:

Topic – LOAVES & FISHES

Grade: Best Suited for 2nd - 5th grade

Topic: Sharing

Materials Needed: Bible, popcorn

1. Opening Prayer:

Thank s for the day's activities.

2. Devotional Message Points:

Pass out different amount of popcorn showing the different amounts of food people around the world. After say one thing they are very thankful for each piece of popcorn.

Scripture:

Mark 8:1-17 & Matthew 15:32-38 (Loaves and Fishes)

3. Discussion Questions:

- What did Jesus have to start out with in the reading?
- How did he end up?
- Why did he decide to share?
- What would you have done in this situation?
- Did you share today?
- How can you share at Camp?
- How does sharing make you feel?
- What things would God want you to do for other people?
- What does this story mean to you as a Christian?

4. Close in Prayer:

Squeeze Prayer

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – WORLD HUNGER

Grade: Best Suited for 2nd - 5th grade

Topic: Sharing

Materials Needed: Bible, enough envelopes for everyone in the cabin and some M&M's or other small individual candy.

1. Opening Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

2. Devotional Message Points:

Fill envelopes with a handful candy and the other envelopes with 2 or 3 pieces. Pass around the envelopes and let them each pick one. Have them all opened at the same time

Scripture:

Matthew 25:34-40 *Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

3. Discussion Questions:

- What was in your envelope?
- How did you feel when you saw what others had?
- Why did some people get more than others? (Be sure they come up with the answer, "lucky".)
- Are there people who have less than you do?
Explain that some of us were very lucky to be born into a family that has enough food and clothing. There are starving children in the world who were unlucky like those of you who picked the envelopes with just a little candy in them.
- How can we help people? Can you think of other way we can help?
- How does God expect us to treat our brothers and sisters?

4. Close in Prayer:

Thank God for all of the fun that we have been having at camp and thank Him forgiving us things that we need and food to get us through the day.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – SHARING

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 7th grade

Topic: Sharing

Materials Needed: Bible, Chicken Soup for the Soul Book

1. Opening Prayer:

Thank God for sharing with us the weather, friends, the camp and your love.

2. Devotional Message Points:

Read “Cold Hands” From Chicken Soup of the Soul p.68

Sharing can involve everyone and included all.

When you share with someone, they will share with you.

Build friendships/relationships

Sharing is more fun!

3. Discussion Questions:

- How did our story show you about sharing?
- Do you think the mom was proud of her daughter?
- Do you share with your friends/family?
- Do you have more fun sharing?
- Jesus sharing food, healing powers and His amazing love.

4. Close in Prayer:

Squeeze Prayer saying things you like to share.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – WORRYING

Grade: Best Suited for 8th - 9th grade

Topic: Worrying

Materials Needed: Bible, Chicken Soup for the Soul Book

1. Opening Prayer:

One word prayer

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

- Do not worry, Just Pray
- God loves us and will help us get through everything we need to handle in everyday life.

Read 3rd serving of Chicken Soup of the Soul p.245

Sharing can involve everyone and included all.

When you share with someone, they will share with you.

Build friendships/relationships

Sharing is more fun!

3. Discussion Questions:

- Why do you worry?
- What is they thing you worry most about?
- Has worrying ever helped you?
- How has God helped you when you have been worried?
- In the story what does he say a fear is like?
- In the story should you approach practices the same or different than a game?

4. Close in Prayer:

Squeeze Prayer

5. Highs & Lows

Topic – The LOST SHEEP

Grade: Best Suited for 2nd – 5th grade

Topic: Love, Everyone is God's Child

Materials Needed: Bible

1. Opening Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for this wonderful day at camp. We thank you for this great opportunity to be close to you. We pray for a great week. Amen

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Matthew 18:10 -14: *See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.*

- God loves you and will always come to find you.
- God wants to be in a relationship with you.

3. Discussion Questions:

- Why does the shepherd go and find the lost sheep?
- Is he happier about the 1 sheep or the 99?
- What does it feel like to be lost?
- Tell about time you were lost and then found.

4. Close in Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank your for helping lead us closer to you we appreciate that you care enough about us to come and guide us back to you. In your name we pray Amen.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – YOUR “NAME”

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 7th grade

Topic: You & GOD

Materials Needed: Bible

1. Opening Prayer:

Thank God for sharing with us the weather, friends, the camp and your love.

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Psalms 139: 1-18 *O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.*

Being comfortable in your own skin, your were created in the image of God.
Being yourself

Good Song to play and talk about “Who Am I “ – Casting Crowns

3. Discussion Questions:

- What does this passage show you about your relationship with God?
- What is your “name”?(identity)
- What defines your identity
- How can God help you identity?

4. Close in Prayer:

A prayer about our own identity ending in the Lord’s Prayer

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – SELF -ESTEEM

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 7th grade

Topic: Self- Esteem

Materials Needed: Bible, Chicken Soup for the Soul 101 stories p. 74

1. Opening Prayer:

Popcorn Prayer

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

- God made each of us, he knows and loves everything about us.
- Learning to accept ourselves.
- God created everyone in his image

3. Discussion Questions:

- What was the Moral from the Chicken Soup Story?
- What did the boy in this story do to take a positive outlook on his situation?
- How can you apply this to your daily life?
- How do other people affect you?
- As a Christian how can you build people up?
- How can you use God when your feeling down?
- What does Jesus what us to think about ourselves?

4. Close in Prayer:

A one word prayer related to how we see ourselves crested in the image of God.

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – PEER PRESSURE

Grade: Best Suited for 8th - 9th grade

Topic: Peer- Pressure

Materials Needed: Bible, Play dough

1. Opening Prayer:

Popcorn Prayer

2. Devotional Message Points:

Scripture:

Romans 12: 2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- Entering into high school one can experience peer pressure and the struggle between doing things that value their Christian life and do not value Christian life.
- We need not conform to the world and have faith and stay true to god and our own beliefs.
- Cliques
- God loves us for who we are and we should not try to be someone we are not.

Hand out play dough to everyone and have them make a sculpture of something they have felt peer pressured for. At the end have everyone crush their sculptures to “break the mold”.

Another way to model peer pressure is to have a volunteer of the group be blind folded and have the rest of the group give them directions to complete a task. Afterwards talk about how volunteer felt, what they heard, why did they make the decision they made etc.

3. Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever felt peer –pressure before?
- How can you resist peer pressure?
- What typed of thing might you be peer pressured to do in the future?
- How does your faith influence your reaction to pressure?
- What is the danger in being someone we are not?

4. Close in Prayer:

We pray that you guide and help us Lord to resist the temptation of peer pressures so we can follow in your ways. AMEN!

5. Highs & Lows:

Topic – GOSSIP

Grade: Best Suited for 6th - 9th grade

Topic: Gossip

Materials Needed: Bible, Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul p 41.

1. **Opening Prayer:**

Thank you for a wonderful day at camp an all of the fun times we have had today and this week. For our devotions tonight we ask you to help and guide our thoughts and conversations. Amen.

2. **Devotional Message Points:**

Scripture:

Proverbs 11:9 *With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.*

Ephesians 4:29-32 *Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

- Gossip can be harmful
- So many people do it even though it is wrong.
- Gossip does not benefit anyone and more often ends up hurting people.

Play Telephone and see how the message gets twisted, just like gossip and rumors.

Read the story from Chicken soup

3. **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you ever gossiped or spread a rumor about someone?
- What did you immediately want to do when you heard a rumor?
- How do you feel when you find out someone is gossiping about you?
- Why do people gossip and spread rumors?
- How can you resist gossip and spreading rumors?
- In the story what did the wise old sage tell the women to do?
- What was the moral of the story?
- Do you think gossiping is considered a sin?
- Is it your duty as a Christian to refrain from it?

4. **Close in Prayer:**

Lord please help us to resist gossip and spreading rumors. Help us to love one another as you love us. Amen.

5. **Highs & Lows:**