



Get Their Attention! (5 minutes)

Materials: None

INTRODUCE yourself and then say:

Hey everyone! Thanks for coming today!

To get started, I want everyone to take turns saying their names and answering this question – what is something that someone has done to you that was hard for you to forgive? Or What does the word forgive mean to you?

INTRODUCE them to what we are learning today:

It can be hard to forgive someone if they do something to us. But we should remember that God forgives us, so we should forgive others too!

That's what we need to know today! My Words Can Forgive!

Need to Know:

My Words Can Forgive!

Bible Story:

The Forgiving King

Matthew 18:21-35

Materials:

- ❄ **Bible Story Page**
- ❄ **Beanbag**
- ❄ **Situation Cards**
- ❄ **Filler Guide**

Bible Story (5 min)

Materials: Bible Story Page

READ and **FOLLOW** the instructions on the **Bible Story Page**.

After the story, **ASK**:

1. **How did the king treat the servant?** (He forgave his servant)
2. **Did the servant forgive his friend who owed him less money?** (No)
3. **Why should we forgive others?** (Because God forgave us, because God tells us to, etc.)
4. **How can your words show that you forgive someone?** (By saying "It's ok," "I forgive you," etc.)

Colossians 3:13 says, "Forgive others because the Lord forgave you." God forgives us for all the wrong things we do. In the same way, we can use our words to show others that we forgive them.

And that's what we need to know today: My Words Can Forgive!

ASK kids to close their eyes & bow their heads. Model prayer for kids by **PRAYING**:

Dear God, thank You for forgiving us when we do wrong. Help us to forgive others when they do wrong things to us. We love You! Amen.

Application Activity Summary:

Kids will decide if people in different situations used their words to forgive. If so, they will pass the bean bag down the line in order to be the first team to finish passing!

Need to Know:

My Words Can Forgive!

Questions:

1. **Should we forgive others even if they don't apologize?**
(Yes)

Application Activity (7 min)

Materials: Beanbag, Situation Cards, Small Candy

1. Divide group into two teams.
2. Allow teams to sit in two straight lines facing each other. Place a **beanbag** between the first two people in the lines.
3. The leader will flip the first **Situation Card** for the first people in the lines to read.
 - ✧ If the person in the situation used their words to forgive, the first people in line will pass the bean bag to the person beside them. Kids will pass it all the way down the line and then the last person will have the **beanbag**.
 - ✧ The first team to finish passing the **beanbag** gets a point.
 - ✧ If the person in the situation did not use their words to forgive, the first people will NOT pass the bean bag.
 - ✧ If a team passes the **beanbag** when it was NOT a forgiving situation, the team loses a point.
5. After each round, read the card to the group and allow the kids to change places so that each child gets to be first and last in line.
6. Play as time allows (even if each child doesn't get to be first in line).
7. Afterwards, **ASK**:

Why is it hard for you to forgive others? How does it make you feel when others forgive you?

Is it better to forgive people right away or wait for a long time to forgive them? (Forgive them now) **Forgiving people now will help us have joy sooner.**

So what do we need to know today? My Words Can Forgive!

Wrap It Up (3 min)

Materials: Filler Guide

ASK the questions on the left and then **USE Filler Guide** to keep kids engaged in small group.

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE USING THE FILLER GUIDE EXAMPLES!