KIDSLOT
Week of October 24, 2011

CHARACTER BUILDERS: FORGIVING OTHERS

KidSlot Leader: You will need three small, clear bowls of water, a pepper shaker, and dish washing detergent for the application lesson.

Today’s Objective
That the children will know that Jesus wants them to forgive one another just as He forgave them.

Scripture
Colossians 3:13 Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of the unmerciful servant.

Kids Slot Activities

1. Only begin when children are sitting in a circle with you. Make sure they are sitting next to someone who will be a help to them, or who they can help.

2. Have children share about their week. You share about yours too!

3. Take time and have several children pray to invite Jesus to be with you and speak to each one tonight.

4. Have children find and read Colossians 3:13. Discuss this verse for a few minutes. You will use the Matthew 18 passage during the creative application.

5. Discussion questions – Use some or all of the following questions below. Be sure to end with the FINAL question.
   • What does it mean to forgive someone?
   • How do you feel inside when you forgive someone?
   • How do you feel toward another person when you forgive them?
   • What kinds of things have you forgiven people for?
   • What things have people forgiven you for?
   • When someone does something to you is it easy for you to forgive them?
   • What happens when you don’t forgive someone?
   • How do you feel toward them? How do you feel inside?
   • Who has forgiven you for something? How did that make you feel?
   • Does Jesus always forgive? Why?
   • Did people deserve to be forgiven?
• If Jesus forgave you even though you didn’t deserve it shouldn’t you forgive others even though they don’t deserve it?
• What did Jesus do to show that He wanted to forgive us?
• FINAL Question – Is there anyone that you think Jesus wants you to forgive? If so, let’s pray right now.

6. Creative Application – Use one or both of the activities below

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT OBJECT LESSON (A demonstration)
Use the following object lesson as you tell the story of The Unforgiving Servant from Matthew 18:21-35 in your own words. Be sure to point out the three following points:

A king forgives a servant’s large debt.
The servant then demands payment from a man who owes him a small amount.
The king punishes his servant for not extending mercy after he’d been given mercy.

You will need 3 small bowls with water in each one, a can of pepper, and a bottle of dishwashing liquid.

Fill the bowls with water. Tell the story. Sprinkle pepper (a good amount) over the surface of the water in the first bowl as you tell about the servant who owed lots of money. The pepper will represent all the money he owed. When you tell that the king forgave him, drop one drip of dishwashing liquid into the center of the bowl. The servant owes nothing.

Then use the second bowl. Sprinkle a little pepper in the center of the bowl. Tell how the servant demanded payment from the other man, even though the man owed him only a little money. Do not put the washing liquid in this bowl. Finish telling the story.

Then go to the third bowl to make the application. Sprinkle pepper onto the water. Say: “The pepper represents sin. God is like the king who forgave our sins. But the other people sin against us. (Give examples). If we do not forgive, our hearts hold onto those things and get full of bitterness, and we hurt inside. So God wants us to forgive others just like he forgave us. (Drop one drip of dishwashing liquid in the center of the bowl.) When we forgive, it takes away all the darkness (bitterness) and our hearts can be clean, full of joy and peace.

CLEAN HEART ACTIVITY (craft activity for all kids to do)
• Give each child a half sheet of paper with Colossians 3:13 on it and a heart to cut out.
• After the heart is cut out have children glue the heart to the center of the page using a glue stick (the heart will be pulled back up later so encourage
to use just enough glue to hold it securely especially around the edges. Do not use bottled glue! It will be too messy!

• Next tell the children when people hurt their feelings or sin against them it sometimes makes their heart feel bad toward the person who wronged them. Have them hold the heart down as they take a crayon and begin to color across the heart to cover it all up extending onto the background paper. It might help to prevent them from tearing up the heart by coloring from the center of the heart outward.

• Next tell them that when they choose to forgive the person that wronged them their hearts will not feel bad anymore toward that person. Pull the heart off the paper to show a clean heart.

7. Prayer
   Lead the children in a time of prayer asking Jesus to help them forgive others like He forgave them. Encourage children to pray for one another and for any other requests they may have. Also have them pray for opportunities to share Jesus with their new friends at school this year.
FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU.
Colossians 3:13