KidSlot #15
Forgiving Others

Lessons are available at http://www.yorkalliance.org/resources/kidslot for you to print copies of the necessary materials for each child in your group.

Materials Needed
- Skit
- 3 small bowls
- Water
- Black pepper
- Dishwashing liquid
- ½ sheet of Colossians 3:13
- Heart for each child
- Crayons

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.

Introductory Activity
Power of Forgiveness Skit

You can be one of the two actors in the skit, or have 2 children volunteer to do the skit for the rest of the children. At the conclusion of the skit, discuss what happened. What did Clarence have to do in the end? Why was forgiving Billy the right choice?

Bible Lesson and Activities
1. 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.

2. 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.
Creative Application
The Unforgiving Servant Object Lesson

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 dish washing 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.

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.

Closure
Clean Heart Craft

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.
Power of Forgiveness

Person What's up Clarence? You look a little angry.
Clarence Humph, I'm not very happy right now.
Person Well, tell me what happened to make you so unhappy.
Clarence Last night Billy came over to play with my new Playstation game. It was brand new and he scratched it all up and now it doesn't work anymore.
Person Well that does seem very unfortunate, but I'm sure Billy didn't mean it.
Clarence Well he did say it was an accident and he was sorry...but I can't forgive him, it was my favorite game, Frogger!
Person You know that reminds me of a story in the Bible.
Clarence Frogger reminds you of a story in the Bible?
Person No silly, the forgiving part.
Clarence Oh!
Person This story was about a young boy who was very special in his father's eyes.
Clarence Daniel was special.
Person True, but this is a story about Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Jacob loved his son Joseph so much, he made him a very special coat of many colors.
Clarence I bet it was beautiful.
Person It was and Joseph loved his coat very much. But his eleven other brothers became very jealous. They didn't get a beautiful coat.
Clarence So, what did they do?
Person What they did was very cruel. First they put Joseph in a deep hole to die, but then decided to sell him instead to some merchants traveling to Egypt.
Clarence I bet Joseph was really angry.
Person: He was at first, just like you are angry now, but he also loved God.

Clarence: So what happened?

Person: Joseph made his home in Egypt and soon became an important person there. One day God told him in a dream that there would be great famine in the land. Do you know what a famine is?

Clarence: I think that is where there is nothing to eat.

Person: That's right and this famine was going to last for seven years.

Clarence: Wow! That's a long time, everyone would starve to death.

Person: Yes, but Pharaoh was no dummy. He let Joseph get ready for the famine by storing large amounts of food to eat later. Finally, the famine came and Joseph's brothers ran out of food....

Clarence: ...So they tried to get some food from Joseph?

Person: Yes they did.

Clarence: But he was still angry and wouldn't give them any. Get away he said, starve to death, go...

Person: Hold on Clarence (**Hand over mouth**), that's not what happened. He forgave them and shared the food because he realized that God had planned the whole thing. Because of his brothers, Joseph went to Egypt and was able to save all of them from starving to death. You see God knows what is best for us even when we don't and when we learn to forgive others in our hearts, He can do great things for us.

Clarence: I guess Joseph did the right thing by forgiving his brothers. I better forgive Billy too. Maybe then God will help me win at Frogger.

Person: Well, that's not quite what I'm saying, but anyway, it's a good start to forgive Billy.

Clarence: Yeah, he is my best friend.

[http://www.kidssundayschool.com/Gradeschool/Skits/1skit02a.php](http://www.kidssundayschool.com/Gradeschool/Skits/1skit02a.php)
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13