

This is a one hour and fifteen minute lesson plan for teens, particularly those who are in their Freshman to Senior years of High School in a predominately white, middle to upper-middle class setting. The perfect setting would be 25+ youths who partake in this lesson.

This lesson plan includes:

- 1) A brief time to come into, have some refreshments, and fellowship
- 2) A “crowd-breaker” game to get to know one another and to establish that everyone is a part of what is taking place.

Each youth should have a copy of the 2nd crowd-breaker questions

- 3) A pointed, brief lesson in which the teens are furnished with note-taking materials and in which time is given periodically for questions to be asked and answered.

Each youth should have a copy of the note taking pages

- 4) A discussion time in which the large group is broken up into small groups, preferably by class groupings (which would make 4 groups), and if large enough, by class and gender, (which would make eight groups). Each group is headed up and directed by a young adult, but with a youth “plant” being in the crowd as well, who has already reviewed the questions and will help to focus the discussion in the pertinent area.

Each youth should have a copy of the discussion questions and thoughts.

- 5) A “take home” paper is also furnished which is intended for the student to take home and ponder throughout the week, hopefully guiding him/her into a deeper relationship with Christ.
- 6) A time of coming back together and wrapping this up through prayer and announcements

Announcement sheets should be handed out at this time if necessary

Outline of class with ideal time breakdowns

- 1) Coming together- 10 minutes

- 2) Crowd-breaker game 15 minutes
For crowd-breaker two, each youth should get a copy of the questions

- 3) Lesson Presentation 30 minutes
Each youth should get a copy of the lesson fill-in-the-blanks pages

- 4) Discussion time 15 minutes
Each youth should get a copy of the discussion thoughts/questions.

- 5) Wrap up/ Prayer/Announcements 5 minutes
Announcement sheets should be handed out at this time if necessary

Coming together-

10 minutes

The idea here is simply to have some light refreshments for the teens. I would suggest having a bowl of ice, some 2-liter bottles of pop, and some chips and pretzels

Also, have some Contemporary Christian Music playing in the background to help set the tone. An alternative for this would be to have some contemporary Christian music videos playing on the television.

This is an important time to have the master teacher and the adult leaders (who will later lead small groups) to mingle among the youth, getting to know them.

Crowd-breaker games

15 minutes

The idea of this game is simply to put the youth together and let them have some “up-close-and-personal” fun

A) Balloon Pop

Give everyone a balloon. Each person is to blow up his/her balloon (really big!), tie it off and hold it at his/her stomach. When everyone has a balloon blown up, each person is to work with the others to form a circle. Once the circle is formed, the people begin moving inward until all balloons are touching.

They then keep moving inward until the balloons begin to pop. The object is to pop all the balloons you can. This can be done as teams. The key is to blow the balloons up as far as you can without bursting them.

from

http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0%2C1703%2CA%253D150823%2526M%253D200111%2C00.html

B) Wagon Wheel

This game is best used with groups of around 20 persons. Arrange chairs in two circles, one circle inside the other. Each chair should be facing another.

When group members are seated facing a partner, tell them you are going to call out a question, which the person on the outside has one minute to answer. At the end of the minute, the person on the inside answers.

After the question, everyone in the outside circle moves one place to the left. Continue with the questions until everyone is facing the same person with which he or she started.

For crowd-breaker two, each youth should get a copy of the questions

Sample Questions:

1. What was your mother like when you were growing up?
2. What do you remember about last week's sermon?
3. What is your favorite city? Why?
4. What kind of letter would you love to receive in the mail?
5. Are you a pack rat or a "throw away-er"? Why do you think this is a good thing to be?
6. If you have a pet, talk about why it is special. If you don't have a pet, talk about why you don't.
7. What is your biggest fear? Why this?
8. If you were a talk-show host, who are some of the guests you'd like to have on your show?
9. If you could not fail, what would you try to do?
10. What do you think heaven will be like?
11. What did you enjoy the most about high school?
12. What was your dad like when you were growing up?
13. What is the worst thing that ever happened to you on a vacation?
14. What was your first paying job? Tell about it.
15. Who is one of your favorite house guests? Why?

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Forgiveness- Don't Leave Home without It

People all across America are walking about with anger, resentment, bitterness, fear, and intimidation. I once heard a statement that struck me with “matter-of-fact-ness”-
“Unforgiveness is like a magnet that draws demon power.”

Tonight, I want us to explore the concepts of forgiveness, and then apply them to our lives

- I. Forgive and Forget
 - A. This is a concept that is taught to us from our very beginning. It is however, an unbiblical thought.
 1. It teaches us that if we truly forgive someone, we forget his or her deeds against us.
 2. What if we suddenly remember this deed, does that mean that we have not forgiven them? According to this concept, that is exactly what this means.
 - B. Psalm 51 gives us the clear pleadings of King David after some horrible sin in his life

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.”

“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”

“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.”

“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.”

“Cleans me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”

“Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.”

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

“Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

“Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.”

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”
 - C. God tells us in His Word that confession and repentance of sin are requirements of forgiveness.

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.”

Did God forgive David's sins? Yes! Then I must ask you what were David's sins? ...and how do you know what his sins were?

- D. The fact is that we know of David's sins because, not only did God not forget them, but He recorded them in II Samuel 11 for all the generations of the world to see.
- "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem."
- "One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,"
- "and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?""
- "Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home."
- "The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant.""
- "So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David."
- "When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going."
- "Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him."
- "But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house."
- "When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?""
- "Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"
- "Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next."
- "At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home."
- "In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah."
- "In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.""
- "So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were."
- "When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died."
- "Joab sent David a full account of the battle."

“He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle,”

“The king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall?’”

“Who killed Abimelech son of Jerub-Besheth ? Didn’t a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?’ If he asks you this, then say to him, ‘Also, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.’””

“The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say.”

“The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance to the city gate.”

“Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.””

“David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.””

“When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him.”

“After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.”

1. Therefore, forgiveness must have nothing to do with forgetting.
2. David was later seen as a man after God own heart- Acts 13:22- "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will."

II. Forgiveness- Definition

A. Merriman- Webster Dictionary

1. Pardon, absolve
2. To give up resentment of
3. To grant relief from payment of

B. Merriman-Webster Thesaurus- to Excuse

C. Strong’s Hebrew Definition- **salach, saw-lakh'**- to forgive:--forgive, pardon, spare.

D. Strong’s Greek Definition- **aphiemi, af-ee'-ay-mee-** to cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up.

E. Personal Definition- To no longer hold to the account of

III. What does that mean for me?

A. Forgiveness is a necessity in the Christian walk. If we have no place for forgiveness, God can have no place for forgiveness for us.

Matthew 6:15- “But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

- B. Forgiveness means you no longer hold a certain sin to someone’s account. It’s a bookkeeper’s terminology. A debt was owed, but through some type of payment or “forgiveness”, that debt is no longer owed.
- C. Forgiveness means that you cast the care (the repayment, the retaliation, the hurt, the pain, the whatever) upon the Lord, NEVER TO TAKE IT BACK!!!
- D. Forgiveness means to release the “amount owed” from the debtor as well as the burden from that debt from yourself.
- E. Forgiveness means to be free!

Student Note-taking pages
Each youth should have a copy of this

Forgiveness- Don't Leave Home Without It

Notes

- I. _____ and _____
- A. It is however, an _____ thought.
1. It teaches us that if we truly forgive someone, we _____ their deeds against us.
 2. What if we suddenly _____ this deed, does that mean that we have not forgiven them? According to this concept, that is exactly what this means.
- B. Reference: _____
- C. God tells us in His Word that _____ and _____ of sin are requirements of forgiveness.
Reference: _____
- D. The fact is that we know of David's sins because, not only did God not forget them, but He recorded them in II Samuel 11 for all the generations of the world to _____ see.
1. Therefore, forgiveness must have _____ to do with forgetting.
 2. David was later seen as a man after God's own _____ -
Reference: _____
- II. Forgiveness- Definition
- A. Merriman- Webster Dictionary _____
- B. Merriman-Webster Thesaurus- to _____
- C. Strong's Hebrew Definition- **calach, saw-lakh'**- to spare.
- D. Strong's Greek Definition- **aphiemi, af-ee'-ay-mee-** to forsake
- E. Personal Definition- To no longer hold to the _____ of
- III. What does that mean for me?

- A. Forgiveness is a _____ in the Christian walk.
Reference: _____
- B. Forgiveness means you no longer hold a certain _____ to someone's account. It's a _____ terminology. A debt was owed, but through some type of payment or "forgiveness", that debt is no longer owed.
- C. Forgiveness means that you _____ the _____ upon the Lord, NEVER TO TAKE IT BACK!!!
- D. Forgiveness means to _____ the "amount owed" from the debtor as well as the burden from that debt from yourself.
- E. Forgiveness means _____
_____!

Discussion time

15 minutes

Each youth should have a copy of the discussion questions and thoughts.

Use these questions to stimulate your thoughts and the discussion within the group. Each youth should have a copy of this.

1. Have you ever had someone who would not forgive you?
How did that make you feel?
2. Have you ever had someone do something to you that you could not forgive?
How did that make you feel?
3. What kinds of things should be easy to forgive?
What kinds of things should be almost impossible to forgive?
4. Is it easier to forgive your friends or those whom you would call you enemies?
5. Do you know people who still keep bitterness and anger in their hearts?
Are they happy people?
Do they seem like bitter all the time?
6. Why do you think forgiveness is so important to God?
7. Do you think that it is unfair of God to expect you to forgive someone else?
8. Is it possible to forgive and forget?
If you say that you have forgiven and forgotten, but suddenly remember, does that mean that you really didn't forgive?
9. Can you remember a time when someone forgave you?
How did you feel?
10. Do you remember a time when you forgave someone?
How did you feel?

Wrap up/ Prayer/Announcements 5 minutes

Announcement sheets should be handed out at this time if necessary

Reassemble everyone together

Use this time to show the youth that you genuinely care about them.

Find out what their needs are.

Take time to pray with and for them.

Make all pertinent announcements, especially those that deal with stuff happening in the next 10 days.

Hang around for a while until everyone is gone. Take the waiting time to get to know everyone better on an individual basis.