

# How Many Times Should I Forgive?

## 1 | Hangout

### SUPPLIES

- Media player

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Introduce today's Big Idea: Forgive. Forgive. Forgive.
- Chat about what forgiveness means. Explain that it's the act of pardoning an offender. In the Bible, the Greek word for "forgiveness" literally means "to let go". It relates to when a person does not demand payment for a debt.
- Read aloud the following situations, pausing after each one to prompt the kids to rate how hard or easy it would be to forgive (1 = easy to forgive; 10 = super hard to forgive):
  - A friend borrows your favourite game and loses it
  - Your sibling calls you a mean name
  - You get blamed for something that wasn't your fault
  - Your friend tells everyone something embarrassing about you
  - Your family cancels plans for something you were really looking forward to
  - A parent can't make it to your big game or recital
- Encourage the kids to suggest more things that would be challenging to forgive. Continue rating how difficult they think it would be to show forgiveness in those situations.
- Watch this week's video from the Now Playing Kids playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

## 2 | Hear

### SUPPLIES

- Bible

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Let everyone know that in today's God Story, someone asks Jesus how often we should forgive. Jesus gives a surprising answer!
- Look up Luke 17:1–4 and read about Jesus' teaching on forgiveness.
- Review and discuss:
  - How many times does Jesus say we should forgive? (Seven times)
  - Do we only need to forgive seven times a day or is this an example? (We should forgive every time someone asks for forgiveness)
- Look up and read Ephesians 4:32.
- Discuss:
  - How does this verse say we should treat one other? (We should be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving, just as God has forgiven us)
  - What did Jesus do so that we can be forgiven for our sins? (Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of everyone's sins, including yours and mine!)
- Discuss:
  - Is it always easy to forgive? Why or why not?
  - What can we do if we want to forgive but it feels too hard?
- Explain that we can ask Jesus to give us his power to forgive the person who hurt us—and he will help us!



### **3 | Huddle**

#### **SUPPLIES**

- None

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Review the Key Verses for this series: “Father, may your name be honoured. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” | Luke 11:2–4, NIRV.
- Ask if anyone remembers what this prayer is called. (The Lord’s Prayer)
- Challenge your group to work together to come up with actions to accompany the words of Luke 11:2–4. Practise saying the words and doing the actions a few times.
- Pray, “Thank you, God, that we can forgive other people because you have forgiven us! Please help us to be quick to say we are sorry when we do the wrong thing, and to be quick to forgive other people when they mess up. Thanks for loving [mention each group member by name] so much, no matter what! Amen.”

## Big Idea Pennant

Colour and cut out the pennant. Wrap the wide edge around a straw and secure with tape to complete your flag! Display your finished pennant in a place that will remind you to forgive, forgive, forgive!

