



3. SMALL GROUP Lesson

WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING AROUND?

PROPS NEEDED: A backpack and 4 large books - each book should have a piece of paper taped to the outside with these 4 sayings on them: "left me out", "made fun of me", "talked behind my back", "called me a name".

LESSON:

- Talk about backpacks and what they carry in them to school.
- Then pass the empty backpack around so they can see how light it is.
- Do you feel how light the backpack is?
- While you are talking add one book at a time and then pass around so they can see how heavy it is. Continue until all four books are in the backpack.

POINT TO MAKE:

- This backpack is just like your heart (hold up the backpack).
- These books are things people do to you that hurt your feelings (hold up books). Show them each book separately and read the words on them.
- These are all examples of things people could do to hurt your feelings, things you'd have to forgive others for.
- When someone hurts your feelings it can be hard to forgive them. When you don't forgive another person, it's like putting a heavy book in your backpack.

- The unforgiveness becomes something "heavy" you carry around with you.
- The more things you have in your heart that you don't forgive, the heavier your heart becomes.
- It gets hard to carry all those heavy hurts around!
- When you forgive others and choose to forget the hurtful things they might have done to you, it makes your backpack lighter!

PUT INTO PRACTICE:

- People will hurt your feelings and you can decide to "carry" around heavy hurts or you can decide to forgive. Choose forgiveness and live light!

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. Have you ever made a mistake and hurt another person's feelings?
2. Do you want others to forgive you when you make a mistake?
3. Who forgave us for our sins? Who is our example to follow?



Super Church 2.0 Small Group Notes

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

1. Pre-Service Activity
2. Bible Time
3. Small Group Lesson
4. Activity Page
5. Dismiss

AGAPE FORGIVE & FORGET

MEMORY VERSE:
Ephesians 4:32, "... forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you..." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE
Forgive people and forget the past.



1. PRE-SERVICE Activity

- During the Pre-Service Activity, group leaders will direct conversation and games to help kids make friends at church.
- As a group leader you have the choice of Ice Breaker Questions or Game to use as the children arrive.

ICE BREAKER Questions:

Question #23:

- What is your favorite subject at school?

Question #567:

- What is your favorite time of year (spring, summer, winter or fall)?

ICE BREAKER Game:

Finish The Story

- Have children get in a circle.
- Pick one child to start.
- They begin "The Story."
Example: Once upon a time....
- The next person adds to the story.
Example: Once upon a time, a puppy was born...
- It continues around the room.
- You can go around as many times as you would like.

2. BIBLE Time

READ THE BIBLE:

1st-2nd Grade - Day by Day Bible: This story is **not** in the Day By Day Bible
3rd Grade and up - NIV Bible: Matthew 18:23-35

- Have each child read one verse out loud.
- Go around the room.
- This works best if everyone uses the same, easy-to-read translation of the Bible.

BIBLE STORY: *The Unforgiving Man*

BIBLE CONNECTION:

There was a man who owed the King millions of dollars. The man begged the King to have mercy on him and the King did. He forgave the man for not paying him (he chose to forget the debt). A few days later the same man had a man thrown in jail for not paying him a small amount of money. When the King found out how unforgiving the man was he had him and his family thrown in jail.

BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. Why was the King going to sell the man and his family? (he owed the King millions of dollars)
2. What happened when the man begged the King to have mercy on him? (the King forgot his debt)
3. What did the man do to the man who owed him money? (put him in jail)
4. What was Jesus teaching us in this story? (to forgive others and forget what they did wrong)

POINT TO MAKE:

Jesus was teaching us a lesson in forgiveness. Just like the King forgave the servant, and just like Jesus has forgiven us of our sins, we should forgive others!