



LESSON 4: FORGIVE LIKE THE FORGIVER

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN: As children of God, our identities as forgivers are wrapped up in God's identity as our Father.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED: To embrace a life that seeks to show love, kindness, and forgiveness to all people, especially those who are most undeserving of it.

Scripture Focus: Luke 6:27-37

OVERVIEW: This lesson will serve almost as a challenge to your students, a charge of sorts. It will end your four-lesson study of forgiveness by highlighting the fact that God's very nature is to forgive, love, and embrace those who deserve it the least. And as God's children, we are to have an element of His nature in us too, just as we share traits with our own parents. We must act as God's children, living our lives in such a way that our every action is saturated with mercy and love, especially to those who least deserve it.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

The Jesus And Forgiveness Teacher Prep Videos are short videos designed to help you grasp the main points of the lessons as you prepare to teach.

To access your "Jesus And Forgiveness Lesson 4 Teacher Prep Video," click on the URL below.

- <https://youthministry360.com/jesus-and-forgiveness-teacher-prep-videos>

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The Bible Background is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details give you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by “context”?** In every ym360 Bible study lesson, you’ll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By “context” we mean at the very least helping students know who wrote the book, when it was written, and why it was written.
- **What’s The Big Deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don’t get a “big picture” understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God’s plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

- **Author:** Luke was a doctor, a Gentile Christian and a companion of Paul.
- **Time frame:** The Gospel of Luke was written around 60 AD.
- **Purpose:** Luke is the only Gentile author of the Bible. His entire purpose was to write an accurate account of the life of Jesus so as to present Jesus as Savior, fully God and fully man. It is one of the synoptic Gospels, having much in common with the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

THE SETTING

In Luke 6, Jesus is still in the early parts of His earthly ministry. Luke 4 shows Jesus being tempted by Satan, reading Scripture in the synagogue, healing the sick, teaching, and driving out demons. Luke 5 sees Jesus, among other things, calling His disciples. Luke 6 is basically a chapter consisting almost entirely of Jesus’ teaching. This passage on loving your enemies is another large block of Jesus’ teachings.

THE MAIN POINT

The main point of this lesson is to end your study of what Jesus had to say about forgiveness on a high note. It’s a challenge to students, and it goes like this: God is your Father. And as His children, our identities are wrapped up in His. If He is merciful and forgiving, we must be too. Just like we “inherit” other traits from our earthly parents, we must seek to embrace this trait as well.

This lesson is a “catch-all,” in which we see Jesus advocating a lifestyle of grace and mercy, not just thinking about forgiveness on a case-by-case approach. It’s a good, challenging lesson to end up with.

LESSON PLAN

The Lesson Plan contains three elements: An introductory activity called The Lead-In; the Bible study section called The Main Event; an application-focused segment called The Last Word.

THE LEAD-IN

- **Goal:** To help students begin to visualize what it means to “inherit” traits from our family members.
- **Set-Up:** You’ll want to display the image from the “Lead-In Activity Sheet” (located in your Lesson 4 Folder). It’s not essential, per se, but it sets a nice visual backdrop for your discussion.

FIRST, remind students that this is your last lesson in the Jesus and Forgiveness series. Explain that this lesson will function as a challenge to students to embrace certain aspects of God’s character. But before you get started, inform them that you want to lead them in a brief discussion.

THEN, ask them to think about their parents and/or grandparents. Have them think about their siblings if they have any. Then, show them the image from the Lead-In Activity Sheet. (Certainly, this part of the lesson may be sensitive to students who don’t know their biological parents. But, the point you’ll make in the Main Event may actually be more meaningful to these students. Be sensitive to their needs, but know that the lesson will not exclude them in any way.) Remind students that we all have aspects of our personalities that we get from our biological parents. Aspects that they got from their parents. Lead students in a short discussion about this idea. **Ask:**

- **Have you ever been told you look like your mother or father? What is it about you that you think makes people say that?**
- **Is there anything about the way you look that you can see in pictures of your grandparents when they were younger? Share what aspect it is.**
- **Beyond looks, do you talk or walk or act like your parents or grandparents? In what ways?**
- **How does this make you feel?**
Answers will vary. You may want to acknowledge that if they have a great relationship with their parents or grandparents, it may be pretty cool. If they don’t, it may be bittersweet.
- **How does it make you feel knowing that if you have children, they will probably share many of your characteristics?**

FINALLY, transition to the Main Event by explaining to your students that if they have come to a saving relationship with Christ through faith, they have become children of God. **Say:**

- **As children of God, we take on aspects of His character, similar to how we do with our own parents. Our identity is wrapped up in God. And in today’s lesson, we’ll wrap up our last look at Jesus and Forgiveness by exploring this concept.**

THE MAIN EVENT

- ♦ **Goal:** To help your students understand that as children of God, our identities as forgivers is wrapped up in God's identity as our Father.
- ♦ **Set-Up:** None needed.

FIRST, have students see who can remember the most about what you've studied this far. **Prompt students** as necessary using the bullet points below:

- ♦ **Lesson 1: The forgiveness we are to extend to others comes from the forgiveness that originates in Christ.**
- ♦ **Lesson 2: God will not forgive us unless we forgive others.**
- ♦ **Lesson 3: That we can't put any limits on our forgiveness; there is never a moment when we can say, "enough forgiveness."**

THEN, instruct students to turn to Luke 6 in their Bibles. Hopefully by this point, students can tell you a little about who Luke was, and maybe even the purpose behind why he wrote his gospel. Help fill in the blanks by referencing the Details section of the Bible Background. While students are finding Luke 6, provide the context for the passage by summarizing the Setting section of your Bible Background.

NEXT, read or have a student read Luke 6:27-31. When you've finished, lead students in a brief discussion **Ask something like:**

- **Someone summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying here.**
- **You're sort of experts on forgiveness now. What do you think the relationship is between these verses and the concept of forgiveness? Where do you see some similarities?**
Answers will vary. Lead students to see that these verses seem to capture the heart of a forgiving person. These verse don't say, "Hate your enemies, they deserve it." Or, "If someone strikes you on the cheek, punch him in the nose." These are examples of being merciful, even if they are not specifically talking about forgiveness.
- **Verse 31 is sometimes called the Golden Rule. If this rule were lived out, what impact would this have on our need to forgive others?**
Answer: We wouldn't have to!!! No one would wrong us, therefore no one would need forgiving.
- **In your opinion, why are these commands of Christ so hard to live by?**
Answers will vary.

THEN, read or have a student read verses 32-36. Once you've finished, **ask something like:**

- **Look back at verses 32-34. What is Jesus trying to help His audience see here?**
Answer: That the easy way isn't enough. Loving nice people is easy. Giving to people who will give you back plus some is easy. It doesn't take a person with a transformed heart to do these things. But to love someone who hates you? If you give without expecting anything in return? Now that's radical. That's evidence of someone with a Christ-like heart.
- **Verse 35 and 36 really get us to the heart of this lesson. In verse 35, Jesus makes a connection between God and us. Where do you see this?**
Answer: God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. If we act in kind, we are like God in this way. More than that, we are acting as the "sons" that we are.

- **Verse 36 is what we came here to read. In fact, we could probably sum up the last three lessons worth of teaching in this one verse. How does this verse act as such a powerful summary on what we've learned so far about forgiveness?**

Answer: If we would only imitate God's mercy, we would find ourselves endlessly forgiving all those who wrong us.

NEXT, remind students of your opening activity. **Ask:**

- **We talked about inheriting traits from our parents and grandparents. What word does Jesus use in verse 36 that opens the door for this comparison to be made?**

Answer: Jesus says that God is our Father.

- **If God is our Father, what does that make us?**

Answer: His children.

- **And as His children, what does that mean for the way we are to live our lives in the world around us?**

Answers will vary. Help your students see that as children of God, we carry the family name. We have God's "DNA," so to speak (not literally, but it's a good image!).

- **How do your actions impact your earthly parents, both good and bad?**

Answers will vary.

- **Can you make a connection to how your actions impact your heavenly Father and His Kingdom?**

Answers will vary.

FINALLY, direct students' attention to verse 37. **Then ask:**

- **How is this a really fitting summary of our time studying forgiveness? How does this verse work to kind of put a bow on all we've learned?**

Answer: It speaks to how we are to live as agents of God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness to the world around us. It's a nice send off for the time you've spent studying Jesus and Forgiveness.

Remind students that this really is what they are called to do. **Say something like:**

- **You are part of God's plan to see His Kingdom advance and grow throughout the earth. By living your life as a child of God, emulating your Father in all you do, you show the world that God loves them and makes a tremendous difference in their lives. Showing forgiveness is one of the most powerful ways you can do this. But today's passage speaks to much more of a lifestyle of mercy and grace. Your challenge is to flavor all your interactions with godliness and to do so in a way that shows the world Christ in you.**

Make sure no one has any questions, then move to wrap up the lesson with the **Last Word**.

THE LAST WORD

- **Goal:** To help students embrace a life that seeks to show love, kindness, and forgiveness to all people, especially those who are most undeserving of it.
- **Set-Up:** A glass of water.

FIRST, ask students if they can name one thing that has stood out from the last four lessons, something that has made an impact on their lives. Allow them a moment to share, if they choose.

NEXT, point out the glass of water. **Say something similar to the following:**

- **What do we know about water? We know that it has some inherent properties, right? First, water is wet. Sounds obvious, but it is. Water's basic nature is wetness. It defines what water is. Of course water can also be a liquid and a gas. These are aspects of water that are true to its identity. Water is useful too. It can clean, quench your thirst, cool you off, even put out a fire. When we see water, we know it for what it is. No surprises (well, outside of a water balloon). Water is just, well, water.**

THEN, make the point that you're not teaching a science class and you're not really obsessed with water. Explain that you brought up the glass of water because you wanted to get students thinking about the essential nature of the identity of water. Make the point that just as water has a definite identity, one that we can easily recognize, one that we know the ins and outs of, so do we.

Say something like this:

- **As Christ-followers, you have an identity too. You have an essential nature that is to be recognizable to others. When people see a glass of water, they know what to expect. When people see you, they should know what to expect too. They should see someone who is kind, compassionate, and merciful. Someone who extends grace over and over again. Someone who is confident in his or her identity as a child of God. No surprises. Nothing out of character. This is your challenge.**

FINALLY, if you want, have a little fun. Encourage students to think of this analogy each time they drink a sip of water this week, and let it challenge them to embrace their identity as a child of God.

If no one has any questions or observations, close in prayer.

- Don't forget to distribute the devotions to your students this week. If you're printing them, have them available for students as you wrap up class. If you're texting a link, posting them on Social Media, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...

- *Do you have questions about a lesson?*
- *Something that worked particularly well you want to share?*
- *Something that didn't work you want to bring up?*

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.