

LEARNING TO FORGIVE

GRADES PK-K – Lesson 1

Goal:

Students will learn about the importance of offering forgiveness to their neighbors. Students will learn of God’s forgiveness for all of them and how they are called to forgive others likewise. God is all-merciful and all-just, and here on earth, we try to imitate His mercy just as we saw Jesus do in the gospels. Everyone makes mistakes and that doesn’t make them a bad person; through the parable of the Prodigal’s Son, students will see how God embraces and welcomes those who have wronged Him and repented because He is forgiving.

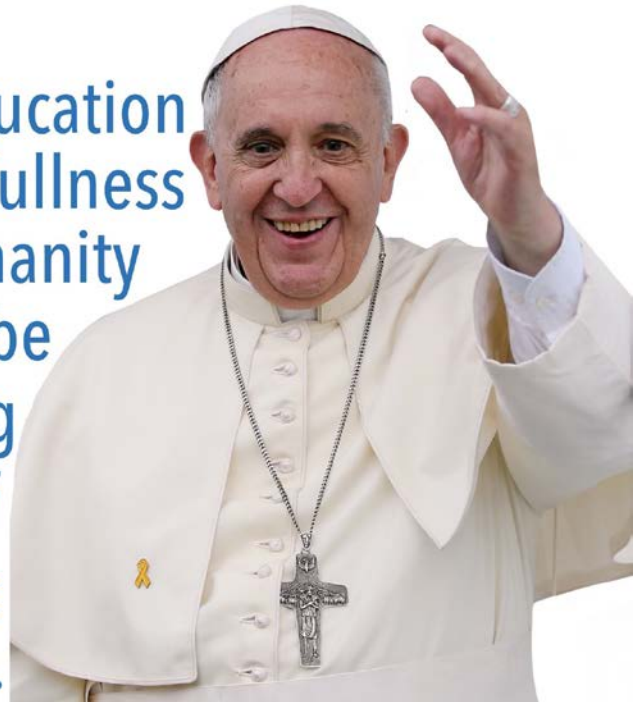
Lesson:

Forgiveness and mercy are needed for everyone. Everyone makes bad choices, but our bad choices do not define us. Students will learn about how God offers forgiveness and we are to offer forgiveness in our day-to-day lives when someone wrongs us. Some bad choices have smaller consequences and some have larger consequences.

Sing and Dance:

“Lord, I Lift Your
Name on High!”

“An education
in the fullness
of humanity
should be
the defining
feature of
Catholic
schools.”



Bible Story:

- Jesus taught us how to pray in the Bible when he first prayed the “Our Father”. Every day when we say this prayer, we ask God to “forgive us as we forgive those who hurt us.” What does that mean?
- Children may not all know what forgiveness is or what it is for. We can help them to understand that we are each in need of forgiveness when we do things that are wrong or hurt other people. When was a time you needed forgiveness?

Watch and Discuss:

- Watch this [Singa and the Kindness Cubbies](#) video
 - Why did Tomeo need to ask for forgiveness? How did his friend respond?
 - What was a time that you forgave someone?
 - Everyone makes mistakes and needs to be forgiven. One person who always forgives us is Jesus, no matter what mistakes we make. What kind of friend is Jesus?
- There are also times that we need to forgive others, as God has forgiven us. What does this look like?
- Forgiveness is the way to be a good friend. How often do we need to forgive?
- How does forgiving others help bring us joy?

Activity:

- Have children practice saying the Our Father. Say it nice and slow and help them understand words that may be new to them. Stop after each phrase to talk about it or answer questions.
- You can print and use the [“Our Father Printable for Kids”](#) that provides graphics for each phrase in the prayer.
- The kids can do an [Our Father Coloring Page](#) to reinforce the message.

Prayer: *In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

Dear God,
Thank you for forgiving me when I do something wrong.
Please help me to forgive others.
Amen.

Lesson adapted from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace