



## subject

Jesus forgives when it is hard, so we can forgive when it is hard.

## date

**March 18, 2020**

## supplies needed

- box of bandaids or stickers
- blank paper
- crayons or markers

## Passage

**Luke 23**

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## Introduction - Video

**WATCH THE VIDEO BELOW AND THEN DISCUSS.**

**SAY:** Today we're going to talk about something that is really hard. Can you think about something that is really hard for you to do?

Today we're going to learn that Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard. Not forgiving is kind of like carrying around something really heavy.

**ASK:** "Have you ever carried something really heavy?"

**SAY:** It's hard to carry heavy things for very long. We might get hurt! In the same way, carrying around bad feelings for others can hurt us more than it hurts the person we're mad at. Today we're going to see how Jesus forgave even when it was hard for him.

## Lesson

**Say:** Our Bible story today is a very serious and sad one. We're going to talk about Jesus dying on the cross.

**Ask:** Where have you seen crosses? Why do you think people display crosses?

**Say:** Crosses are symbols of where Jesus suffered and died, which seems sad. But Jesus died to forgive us, and ultimately came back to life! That's why Christians use the cross as a symbol of something good. Let's find out more about what happened on the cross.



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## **One thing Jesus experienced was physical pain**

Read Luke 23:33.

**Say:** Can you think of a time you got hurt? Maybe someone else hurt you? Perhaps someone pushed you or you got in a fight with someone at school.

**Do It** - Put a band aid/sticker on all the places you remember being hurt.  
(Distribute stickers. Put on your own stickers, too.)

**Say:** We've all been hurt. Probably none of our hurts were as painful as being nailed to a cross. But listen to what Jesus said when people hurt him and nailed him to a cross.

Read the first sentence of Luke 23:34.

**Ask:** "What did Jesus do?"

**Say:** Jesus forgave the people who were hurting him. So as we take off our stickers let's pray for help to forgive the people who have hurt us. <Pray a short prayer>

**Say:** Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard. It's hard to forgive when other people hurt us. Forgiving doesn't mean that we let someone keep hurting us. But it does mean we don't keep having bad feelings for what they've done in the past.

## **Jesus Experienced Loss of His Things**

**Say:** The people not only physically hurt Jesus but they also messed with his stuff.

Read the rest of Luke 23:34.

*Distribute paper and markers.*

**Say:** Draw a picture of a time someone messed up your stuff. Maybe someone lost your favorite pencil or broke your iPad. As kids work, draw your own picture.

**Say:** Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard. It can be hard to forgive someone for messing up our stuff. What the soldiers did with Jesus' stuff didn't ruin it, but it was humiliating. But Jesus still forgives. Let's show we forgive the people who messed up our stuff by tearing up our pictures. As we tear up our pictures let's pray for help to forgive people who mess up our stuff. <Pray a short prayer>

## **Jesus Experienced People Saying Mean Things**

**Say:** After Jesus had been physically hurt and his stuff had been gambled away, people started saying mean things to him.

Read Luke 23:35-39.

**Say:** Think of the mean things people have said to you. Imagine writing them on the palm of your hand, and then put your hand over your heart. Everyone has mean words others have said to them and sometimes it's really hard to forgive when someone has said mean things.



## ***Jesus forgives when it is hard, so we can forgive when it is hard.***

**Say:** But Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard. Jesus died on the cross to forgive everyone in the whole world. That includes the people who were making fun of him. And it includes the people who've made fun of you. It's hard to forgive people for saying mean things to us. But it hurts our hearts to hold on to those bad feelings. So let's forgive. *(Shake your hands free)* And let's pray for help to forgive others who have said mean things to us. *<Pray a short prayer>*

**Say:** Jesus forgave a lot right? Well there's one more thing Jesus forgave in this passage.

Read Luke 23:40-43.

**Say:** We don't know what this criminal had done. But we know it was pretty bad based on his punishment! Even though he'd done really bad things, Jesus forgave him and promised him a place in heaven.

Jesus forgives when it's hard. That means he forgives us even when it's hard. Even when you feel like what you've done is too big to be forgiven.

*Distribute more paper, and spread out where no one will see what anyone else writes.*

**Say:** On your paper, write or draw pictures of some of the things you've done wrong. That's called sin. Sin hurts others, and it hurts God. Without forgiveness, sin keeps us apart from God. When you're done, crumple your paper. *(Allow time. Write your own list and crumple it, too).*

**Say:** Jesus forgives when it's hard. There is nothing, nothing on your list that Jesus won't forgive. When he died on the cross, he took the punishment for everything on all our lists. He wants us to be in heaven where everything is perfect, so he made a way for us to be forgiven by dying on the cross.

**Say:** This was a very sad story. Jesus went through a lot of hard things and ended up dying on a cross. But here's the best news ever: Jesus isn't dead now! Three days after Jesus died on the cross, he came back to life! He's alive today and he's here with us now and that's something to be excited about!

**Say:** Jesus forgives when it's hard. We can all experience Jesus' forgiveness. And when we really experience the joy of being forgiven, we can pass that on to others! So when you're mad at someone, remember: Jesus died to forgive that person. If Jesus forgives everyone, so can we!

### **PRAY**

*Jesus, thank you that you forgive when it's hard. Thank you that there's no sin of ours too big that you won't forgive it. Thank you that you know what it's like to forgive when people physically hurt you mess up your stuff, or call you mean names. Help us forgive when people do those things to us. In your name, amen.*