

# SESSION 4: CHOOSE FORGIVENESS

**JESUS FORGIVES ME**  
**[LUKE 22:54-62; JOHN 20-21]**

**MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16**

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."**



# DAILY DEVOTION:

## LUKE 22:54-62; JOHN 20-21

At the Last Supper in John 13:37-38, Peter committed to follow Jesus wherever He went, even if it meant losing his life. Peter was ready for Jesus to begin His earthly kingdom. He was ready to fight. As we know, this is not at all what happened. Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. When Jesus allowed the Romans to arrest Him and rebuked Peter for drawing his sword, Peter and the rest of the disciples ran.

They did not understand. Jesus' arrest was not at all what they expected. Afraid for their lives, the disciples hid from the Romans. Peter stayed close, but he was still afraid of being arrested. When asked, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. He chose his safety over his Savior. Immediately, the rooster crowed. With one look from Jesus, Peter knew he had failed.

We all can identify with Peter, because we all have failed. We have said and done things we immediately regretted. We have hurt the ones we love. Knowing he had betrayed Jesus, Peter joined the rest of the disciples in hiding. Jesus was killed on the cross, but Peter still did not understand the significance of what Jesus was doing for him.

Then three days later, Peter received the news that Jesus was alive. When Jesus came to them on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Peter jumped out of the boat and swam to shore to see Jesus.

Jesus refers to Simon Peter as "Simon," the name he used before he met Jesus. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him, once for every time Peter had denied Christ. Peter committed himself to Jesus again, saying he loved Him above all else. Jesus forgave Peter, giving him a new job as the head of the early church. Jesus then warned Peter that he would again face the decision between his safety and his Savior. Knowing what the choice would mean, Peter resolved right then to choose Jesus.

We all have failed. But where there is failure, Jesus is ready to forgive. Like Peter, run to Jesus when you have failed. Let Jesus make you new again. Freely choose to forgive others, because you know you have been forgiven.



## SESSION 4:

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### INDOOR ACTIVITY: PING PONG BALL RACE

**Materials:** Ping pong balls, Plastic spoons

**Directions:** Give each contestant a spoon and a ping pong ball. Race down a hallway and back while balancing a ping pong ball on a spoon. To make it more difficult, hold the spoon in with only two fingers. If someone drops the ball, they must take three steps back and start again.

### MAKE THE CONNECTION:

When you dropped the ball, you had to go backwards before starting again. But the game was not over. You were allowed to pick up the ball and keep going. The Bible tells us Peter “dropped the ball.” He made a wrong choice, but Jesus was not finished with him. Jesus forgave Peter, and He is ready to forgive everyone who believes in Him.



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### CRAFT: MEND THE HEARTS

**Materials:** Paper hearts, Yarn, Hole punch, Colors

**Directions:** Decorate the heart before cutting it out. Punch out the circles on the heart. Weave the yarn in and out of the circles to mend the heart.

### MAKE THE CONNECTION:

Jesus chose to forgive us when we sinned. Now we can forgive others. As you mend this heart, think about the people who have forgiven you for the things you have done wrong. When you are finished, talk to God. Thank Him for forgiving you. Ask God to forgive the people who have hurt you. Choose to let go of the hurt, so you can live freely for Jesus.

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## OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: FREEZE TAG

**Materials:** None

**Directions:** Choose one person to be "It" and one person to be "the Forgiver." When It tags someone, they must freeze on one knee with their hand raised. When the Forgiver tags someone who is kneeling, they can rejoin the game. Play short bursts of this game, so everyone has a chance to be It or the Forgiver.

### MAKE THE CONNECTION:

Being frozen is no fun in this game. When you were tagged by the Forgiver, you were able to rejoin the game. In life, sin freezes us. It keeps us from living the way God created us to live. Thankfully Jesus came, so we could be forgiven. Because Jesus has forgiven us, we can forgive others.



# SESSION 4:

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## MEMORY VERSE: PASS IT ON

**Materials:** Stuffed animal or soft foam ball

**Directions:** Sit in a circle. Say the verse, one word at a time, as you pass a stuffed animal around the circle. Start slowly, picking up speed as you go.

## MAKE THE CONNECTION:

John 3:16 reminds us that God loves us and wants to spend eternity with us. We all have sinned. Thankfully Jesus came to take the punishment for our wrong choices. Because Jesus has forgiven us, we can “pass it on” by forgiving the people who have hurt us.

## MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

# SESSION 4: TALK ABOUT IT

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How do you feel when you realize you have done something wrong?
2. What is the first thing you do when you realize you have done something wrong?
3. How do you feel when someone does something wrong to you?
4. Do you think it is hard to forgive sometimes? Explain your answer.
5. What is sin? (*Sin is anything you think, say, or do that is wrong, that falls short of God's perfect standard. See Romans 3:23.*)

## WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

1. **Romans 6:23** says, **"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."**
  - What do we deserve for our sin, our wrong choices?
  - What does Jesus offer us instead?
  - What do we have to do to earn Jesus' gift of eternal life? (*Nothing His gift is free.*)
  - What does this verse teach us about the way Jesus forgives?
2. **1 John 1:9** says, **"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."**
  - What should we do when we realize we have sinned?
  - What does God do when we ask Him to forgive us?

# SESSION 4: TALK ABOUT IT

## WHAT DOES GOD SAY? [CONTNUED]

**3. Colossians 3:12-13 says, "Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. "**

- Why does God tell us to forgive others?
- What does it mean to "make allowance for each others' faults?"
- What does it mean to "clothe yourselves" with the qualities in verse 12? Give examples.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Jesus died to pay the price for our sins. Now we must choose to accept His gift of forgiveness and forever family. Have you asked Jesus to forgive you for your sins, your wrong choices? Have you asked Him to be the Lord, the Master, of your life? If so, tell someone about your decision!
2. Forgiving others is not easy, especially when someone hurts our feelings. What can you do when you find it hard to forgive someone?
3. Read Colossians 3:12-13 again (top of the page). What can you do to help you live out these verses today?



