

“Be Different” - LESSON 7

“Forgive Others”

Main Focus:

Christians must forgive others
and not get revenge.



Power Verse:

“Never pay back evil with more evil...”
- Romans 12:17a



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Forgive You No Matter What
You’ve Done!”

LEADER’S INFO

Forgiveness isn’t just about saying “I’m sorry” or hearing someone say “It’s okay.” It’s about letting go of anger, bitterness, and hurt, just as God lets go of our sins when we ask Him for forgiveness.

In this lesson, we’ll dive into what it means to forgive, why forgiveness is so important, and how it can change our lives for the better. We’ll explore how forgiving others sets us free and allows God’s love to shine through us.

Whether it’s forgiving a sibling who broke their favorite toy or letting go of a grudge against a friend, forgiveness is something God calls us to practice every day.

Through the story of David and Nabal, the children will discover some practical ways to forgive even when it’s hard.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Revenge Never Works”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Dylan teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Inspector Change-A-Lot”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Knock Down The Wall”



Bible Story

“Nabal’s Foolish Mistake”



Power Verse Video

“Never pay back evil with more evil...”

- Romans 12:17a



Call To Action

“Forgive Others”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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Power Verse:

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Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Forgive You No Matter What
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Lesson 7 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 7 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Inspector Change-A-Lot” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Knock Down The Wall” Graphic
- Table
- 24 Empty Soda Cans
- Frisbee

Bible Story

- “Nabal’s Foolish Mistake” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 7 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Forgive Others” Graphics
- A Cup Of Water
- A Bucket
- Several Large Rocks

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 7 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Bible Story Name Tags Print Piece
- Scissors
- Tape
- Anger, Revenge, Forgive Print Piece
- Basket Or Bowl
- Cups
- A Way To Keep Time
- A Way To Keep Score
- Romans 12:17a Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

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Game Time!

“Knock Down The Wall”

Bible Story

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Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids!

Have you ever been angry? What is something that just makes you MAD? *(allow several kids to answer and share about times they have gotten angry about something)* Yeah, I can imagine those things probably would have made me upset as well.

Well, today, we are going to learn what to do when someone makes us angry. Should we get revenge and pay them back? Let's check back in with our friends in this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 7”)

Leader: There are many ways to handle anger. You can scream and yell! You can throw things. You can even go as far as to hurt someone else. Sometimes, you may actually WANT to hurt someone else if they are the person who made you angry. That's called revenge!

None of those things are how God wants us to handle it when someone does something to make us angry. In fact, if we are truly going to “Be Different” we can't handle our anger in the same way the world does. Rather than get revenge, we must choose to forgive.

You're going to learn a lot about that in today's lesson. Right now, it's time to find out Whatchagaddaknow...

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Inspector Change-A-Lot” *(They are a wacky person who loves to invent things! Dressed like an old-timey detective, they should come in each week ready to feature their latest invention or tool that can be debunked with a simple solution.)*

Inspector: *(Enters with a backpack full of various items; straining)* Hello everyone! What a wonderful—ugh—day it is! Also, a very EXHAUSTING day.

Leader: *(Concerned)* Inspector, what in the world are you carrying? It looks like you’re about to fall over!

Inspector: *(Wobbling)* Oh, this? This is just... *(huff)* my latest... *(puff)* invention! The Get-You-Back Pack!

Leader: The what?

Inspector: You heard me! The Get-You-Back Pack is a genius way to keep track of every single person who has ever wronged me! Every time someone does something mean, rude, or just plain annoying, I stuff another thing into this backpack so I never forget about it!

Leader: *(Raises an eyebrow)* Uh... that doesn’t sound very smart. That sounds like a terrible idea!

Inspector: Nonsense! Look, let me demonstrate. *(Pulls out objects)* This pillow? That’s from the time someone cut in front of me in line. And this stuffed animal? That’s from the time my best friend forgot my birthday! And these empty water bottles? Each one represents a time someone ignored my text messages! I mean, who does that?!

Leader: *(Shaking head)* Inspector, you’re carrying ALL that around just because people made mistakes?

Inspector: YES! I must hold on to the grudges! I must never forget! And some day, I will get them back for what they did!

Leader: But Inspector... do you want to carry all that weight forever?

Inspector: *(Pauses)* Well... now that you mention it... this thing does weigh a ton. I have to walk everywhere hunched over.

Leader: That’s because holding onto unforgiveness weighs us down! When we refuse to forgive, we carry burdens that make life harder. But Jesus tells us that when we forgive, we let go of all that weight!

Inspector: So, you’re saying if I forgive, I can finally stand up straight again?

Leader: Yes! If you forgive, you don’t have to carry these burdens around anymore.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Inspector: *(Dramatic gasp)* I can let it go?!

Leader: YES! And Jesus promises that when we forgive, we'll experience freedom, just like when you take off that heavy backpack.

Inspector: *(Rips off the backpack dramatically and throws it to the ground)* WOW! I feel so light! I feel so free! I feel like... I could DANCE! *(Does a silly victory dance)*

Leader: Haha! That's the power of forgiveness! When we let go, we're no longer weighed down by anger. We can live with joy!

Inspector: Okay, okay. But what if someone keeps messing up? Like, what if they hurt me over and over again? Surely there's a limit!

Leader: That's what's great about forgiveness. Just like God forgives us over and over, we should forgive others! Do you ever want to carry the weight of a grudge around again?

Inspector: Never! Those things are WAY too heavy!

Leader: Exactly! That's why we should choose to be different and forgive every time someone hurts us!

Inspector: *(Picks up the backpack, looks at it, then throws it behind them)* Well, then I don't need this anymore! I'm done carrying unforgiveness! From now on, I will be quick to forgive and not hold grudges!

Leader: That's a great decision, Inspector! And, today, we're learning all about how we can choose forgiveness.

Inspector: Sounds like a life-changing lesson! Now, it's time to go empty my other “Get-You-Back Packs!” I'm Inspector Change-A-Lot, and I'll be back to inspect your transformation, so be ready!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Knock Down The Wall”

Items Needed For Game:

Table; 24 empty soda cans; frisbee

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate.
Stack the cans in two stacks of 12 (*separated from each other*)

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How To Play:

Have the children stand approximately fifteen to twenty feet away from the cans. One at a time, have the children throw the Frisbee to try to knock down their wall of cans. Have each girl throw the Frisbee once, and then count how many cans they knocked down. Have the boys do the same, and then compare the two numbers. The team that knocked down the most cans wins!



Bible Story

“Nabal’s Foolish Mistake”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 7; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the passage in 1 Samuel 25; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today, our Bible Story comes from the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 25. This is a story about David before he became the King of Israel. We find David headed for the wilderness of Maon.

In Maon, there was a man named Nabal (which means “fool”) who was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats, and it was sheep-shearing time. So David sent his men to Nabal and had them deliver a message, saying, “Peace to you and everyone here! I know it’s sheep-shearing time and you are going to have a big feast with all of your men. I want you to know that my men and I camped out near your sheep recently, and we didn’t harm a single one of them - in fact, we helped protect them! So we would like you to share your feast with us. Give whatever your heart tells you to give us.”

Nabal was very mean, and he told David’s men, (*show pic*) “Who does David think he is? I don’t even know him. Do you think I’m going to give away all of my good food to this complete stranger?”

David’s men were shocked, and they quickly ran back to David to tell him what Nabal said. When David got word from his men that Nabal insulted him, he was angry! David yelled to his servants, (*show pic*) “Get your swords! I will kill Nabal and his whole family!” David let his anger control him, and he planned to get revenge on Nabal and his entire family!

However, one of the servants told Nabal’s wife, Abigail, what happened and that Nabal was really mean to David. Abigail was quick to go and meet David out in the field. She begged David, (*show pic*) “Please forgive! Don’t take on the burden of revenge.” She didn’t want David to pay back Nabal’s evil with more evil of his own. Then she gave David and his men a whole bunch of food and drink so they could feast.

David felt horrible for threatening to take revenge. He had let his anger take control of him. He realized his mistake. David told Abigail, (*show pic*) “Return home in peace. I will not kill your husband.”

In today’s lesson, you will learn what David learned - that instead of trying to pay back evil with more evil, you should choose to forgive anyone who hurts you. That way God is honored and you can “Be Different.”





Call To Action

“Forgive Others”

Materials Needed:

The “Forgive Others” graphics; a cup of water (*give to a pre-chosen assistant*); a bucket; several large rocks that will fit in the bucket

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Forgive Others”

The Message: (*title slide*)



Have you ever been angry with someone before? Someone did something or said something to you that made you so mad you wanted to do something back to them to get revenge. If that has ever happened to you - don’t you always feel terrible when it’s all over?

When someone hurts you, it’s very easy to let yourself get super angry at them. It can lead you to try to take matters into your own hands and start to think of ways to get revenge. That is the thing with anger...

Anger Blinds You (*slide*)



(Pretend to cough a lot; then after a few seconds of pretending to cough and needing water, have an assistant, without any obviously prompting, “offer” you some water. On their way, have them trip and drop the water, causing a scene. When they do, act annoyed and ask them to pick it up. When they go to pick it up, have them actually make it worse by knocking something else over. While they apologize over and over, begin to show your anger. When they appear to be taking too much time cleaning up, begin to yell at them. Say, “Why do you pick NOW of all times to knock something over? Can’t you see I am trying to teach a lesson. All you ever do is mess things up. You are such a loser!” By this time, your kids will probably be sitting with their jaws hanging to the ground. Freeze, turn to them and say...)

Kids, it’s okay. I planned this with _____ (*name of assistant*). I wanted you to know what it’s like to let anger blind you. Remember when I was coughing and needed some water? Without even asking, _____ (*name of assistant*) very kindly thought to bring me some - to help me out. But when he/she accidentally dropped it, I got annoyed because he/she was causing a disruption. Then when it got worse, I let my anger control me, and I said some really mean things to him/her. My anger blinded me from the kind thing _____ (*name of assistant*) was doing for me. My anger kept me from realizing he/she was only trying to help and ended up causing me to yell mean things at him/her.

That’s how life is for you and me all the time. If we’re not careful, we’ll let anger blind us and we’ll end up

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

doing things we later regret. Sometimes we even let our anger blind us for a long time and we end up living in anger, always plotting revenge on those who have caused us to be angry. That's what David did in our Bible Story. He decided to get revenge on Nabal for insulting him, and he made plans to kill Nabal and his whole family. That's really extreme. That's a lot of revenge for someone who just insulted you and didn't let you share his feast. In fact, that leads us to our next lesson...



Revenge Is A Burden *(slide)*

When you decide you want to get revenge on someone or plan to get back at them, that means you have to keep up with the wrong they did. Instead of forgiving them for making you angry, you have to keep up with what they did so you can plan to do something equally (or even more) hurtful.

Imagine always living that way - always planning revenge against the people who hurt you. Every time something bad happens, you pick up and carry the burden of what that person did (*pick up an empty bucket, and then pick up a heavy rock that you can pick up without putting down the bucket and put it in the bucket*). If your friend says they don't want to play with you anymore, you get angry and plan revenge, carrying around what they did to you until you can get them back (*pick up a rock and put it in the bucket - repeat this several times using other examples*).

Eventually, you get weighed down by all of these things other people did to you to make you angry, and you have to carry them around while you plan some way to get back at them. You just end up carrying around your anger instead of letting it go and giving it to Jesus.

We have been learning how to “Be Different” from Romans chapter 12. Well it says in verse 19, “never take revenge. Leave that to...God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the LORD.” Instead of taking revenge... (*put down the bucket*)



Choose To Forgive *(slide)*

Don't allow yourself to become so angry with someone who hurt you that you end up trying to get revenge. When someone hurts you - stop, pray, and ask God to help you. Take some deep breaths, and pray while you do it. Then, God can help you handle your anger before you lose control and take revenge. God will help you “Be Different” by choosing to forgive others.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray that the children would not be blinded by their anger when someone hurts them. Pray that they would not carry around the burden of revenge, but that they would instead choose to forgive. Pray that God would help them to “Be Different” and show the world what it means to truly forgive others.

**Materials Needed:**

“REWIND!” Lesson 7 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Will Forgive You No Matter What You’ve Done!”

2. What did David and his men protect from harm?

Answer: Sheep

3. Who insulted David?

Answer: Nabal

4. True or False: David was very angry when he heard about Nabal.

Answer: True

5. Who helped David to realize he was letting anger control him?

Answer: Abigail

6. According to our lesson today, “Anger ____ You.”

Answer: Blinds

7. According to our lesson today, “____ Is A Burden.”

Answer: Revenge

8. According to our lesson today, “Choose To ____.”

Answer: Forgive

9. True or False: It is okay to take revenge when someone hurts you.

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Romans 12:17a