**Leader Overview**



**Volume Overview**

**Pursue Jesus**

*Jesus’ offer is remarkably clear: If we look for Jesus, we’ll find Him. He’s not hiding from us, but closely connecting with Him does take us being intentional. We’re called to follow Him, to pursue Him. In this volume, we’ll look at how individuals pursued Jesus through the challenges of their circumstances. Pursuing Jesus is not only a mental exercise for personal growth, but it also means living out our faith in tangible ways: showing up, listening carefully, receiving grace, and trusting Him.*

**Session Overview**

**Receive Grace**

*In this session, kids will learn about forgiveness. We’ll dive into the story of a woman who visited Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee. The woman’s sins were great, but she didn’t let her past keep her from showing love for Jesus. He forgave her, and when we go to Him, He will forgive us too.*

**Bible Lesson**

A Sinner Comes Humbly to Jesus

[Luke 7:36–50](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.36-50)

**Faith Fact**

I can be forgiven.

**Faith Verse**

[Jeremiah 29:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Je29.13) (NLT)

“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

**Preparing for the Session**

**Leader Preparation Time: 20–25 Minutes**

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| ***You Will Need***  ***Large Group***  *• Bible*  *• Worship songs (Song suggestions: “Shine a Light” by Kids on the Move; “Available” by Elevation Worship; “Fresh Chance” by River Valley Worship [lyric video])*  *• For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:*  *• Projector or TV*  *• Laptop*  *•* ***Faith Fact Slide***  *•* ***Faith Verse Video*** *or* ***Slide***  *•* ***Bible Lesson Video***  *•* ***Teaching Point Slides 1–3***  *• Two or more balloons filled with regular air*  *• Smartphone or timer*  *• Perfume or cologne bottle*  *• Disappearing paper*  *• Clear glass bowl filled with water*  *• Table with plastic tablecloth*  *• Disappearing paper, one piece per kid*  *• Pens, one per kid*  *• Optional: Thick paper towels and washable markers, one per kid*  *• Buckets of water, one or more depending on group size*  *• Plastic tablecloths*  ***Small Group***  *• Bibles for kids in the group to share*  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid*  *• Pencils or pens, one per kid*  *• Crayons or markers*  *To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [***BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads***](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready***  ***Large Group***  *• Download videos and slides if needed.*  *• Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.*  *• Read the Bible Lesson Scripture to prepare for Teaching Time.*  *• Blow up balloons with regular air, not helium.*  *• Fill the bowl with water, and place it on the table at the front of the room.*  *• On a piece of disappearing paper, write a sin you need forgiveness for.*  *• Fill the buckets with water.*  *• Set up as many response stations as needed by placing buckets on plastic tablecloths on the floor.*  *• If you don’t have disappearing paper, adapt the activity to use paper towels and washable markers.*  ***Small Group***  *• Print copies of the Small Group Activity Page, one per kid.*  ***First time leading* Live *for Kids? Check out the*** [**Facilitator Guide**](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)***.*** |

**Large Group**

**30 Minutes**

*See what’s needed at the beginning of the session.*

**Introduction**

I’m so glad you’re here today! Who’s ready to have some fun as we learn from God’s Word? *(Group response)* Today we’re learning about forgiveness. So let me ask this: Has anyone here ever made a mistake? Raise your hand. *(Group response)* Me too!

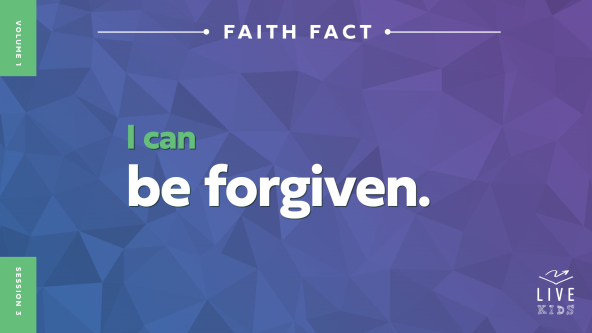
• *Optional: Briefly tell about a sin someone forgave you for when you were a kid.*

It’s wonderful when other people forgive us for messing up—and it’s even better when Jesus forgives us!

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact today is right in line with what we’re talking about. It says: **I can be forgiven**.

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide.***



Do you think you can say the Faith Fact while doing jumping jacks? *(Group response)* Let’s do it. **I can be forgiven**. What about spinning in circles? Go! **I can be forgiven**. That was fun!

**Game**

**Let It Go Balloon Toss**

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Two or more balloons filled with regular air*  *• Smartphone or timer*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Blow up balloons with regular air, not helium.* |

Our game today is called “Let It Go Balloon Toss.” When someone hurts us, we should forgive them and then let it go! That means to not keep thinking about the wrong thing they did. *(Hold up balloons.)*

We’re going to work together to keep these balloons off the ground as long as possible. When a balloon comes to you, tap it so it will stay in the air. But every time you hit the balloon, you have to say, “Let it go!”

• *Optional: Have kids sing the phrase from the* Frozen *movie in their best Elsa voice.*

• *Start the timer. Play until all the balloons hit the ground.*

• *Play again (if your time frame allows) to beat the original time.*

Great job! Forgiveness is so important for us to receive and then freely give to others. We should “let it go” and forgive other people’s mistakes, just like Jesus lets it go when we ask Him to forgive our sins.

**Worship**

Remembering how Jesus has forgiven us makes me want to worship Him and sing about His goodness. Who’s ready to worship Jesus by singing today? *(Group response)* Let’s sing together.

• *Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the beginning of the session.*

**Bible Lesson**

What an incredible time of worshipping Jesus together! Now it’s time to learn more about Him from the Bible. Today’s story is found in the Book of Luke. It’s about a woman who needed forgiveness and the way Jesus and a Pharisee treated her. Jesus teaches us an important lesson about forgiveness in this story. But before we talk more about that, let’s pray.

**Prayer**

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| *Dear Jesus, we love You. Thank You that we have a place to learn about You. Help us to have an open heart and mind. We want to hear what You say to us today through Your Word. Amen.* |

**Video Intro**

Before we look at the Bible story, let’s check in with Dash and the Kids Bible Vlog.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video****.*



**Bible Story**

**A Sinner Comes Humbly to Jesus**

Dash’s story about forgiveness makes me so excited about our Bible story today! Let’s set the stage. One night, Jesus went to dinner at Simon the Pharisee’s house. Do you know what a *Pharisee* is? *(Allow responses.)* A Pharisee was a Jewish religious leader. Pharisees carefully followed God’s laws and their own passed-down traditions. They tried hard to be perfect. Let’s read about what happened when a surprise guest showed up at Simon’s house.

**Teaching Time**

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Perfume or cologne bottle*  *• Disappearing paper*  *• Clear glass bowl filled with water*  *• Table with plastic tablecloth*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Fill the bowl with water, and place it on the table at the front of the room.*  *• On a piece of disappearing paper, write a sin you need forgiveness for*. |

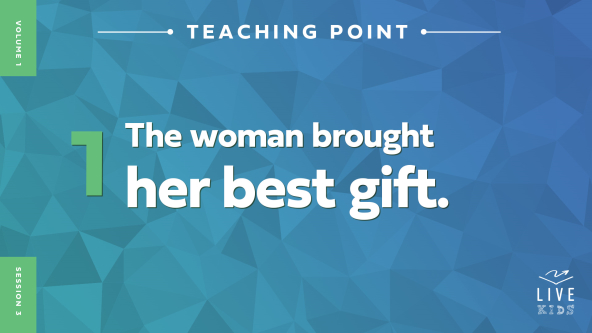
Jesus and the other guests arrived at Simon the Pharisee’s house and sat down for dinner. Suddenly, a woman who wasn’t invited walked in. Grab your Bible or pull up a Bible app on your device. Turn to [Luke 7:36–50](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.36-50), and let’s find out what happened next!

• *In order to keep Large Group time moving along, we recommend that the leader reads the Scripture portions aloud.*

• *Optional: Remind the kids to mark this place with a bookmark, so they can read it on their own at home.*

**1. The woman brought her best gift.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 1 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Luke 7:36–39*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.36-39)*.*

This woman who showed up at Simon the Pharisee’s house wasn’t invited or expected. The Bible tells us she was “immoral,” which means she had sinned a lot. Do you think Simon the Pharisee and his guests were wondering why she was there? *(Group response)* Maybe they were even whispering to each other and trying to figure it out.

Because of all she had done, the woman might have been used to people whispering about her. Has someone ever whispered something mean to you about another person? *(Group response)* Well, no matter what people thought, Jesus and the woman both knew why she was there. She had come to see Jesus. She went straight to Him, carrying some very expensive perfume.

• *Show kids the perfume bottle.*

Your mom or grandma might have a perfume bottle like this one. But the woman in our story had a very special jar of perfume. Do you think it was cheap or expensive? *(Group response)* It was very expensive! Most people in Jesus’ time didn’t even use perfume, because it cost so much! So that means this woman was probably bringing the most precious thing she owned—her very best—to give to Jesus.

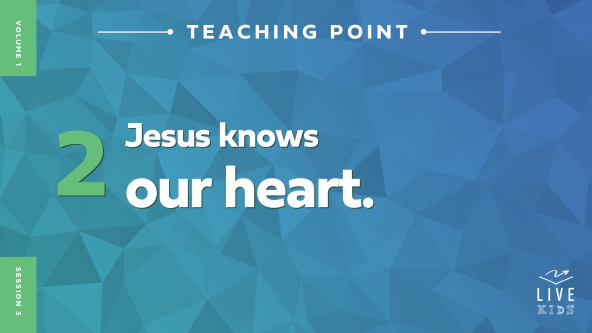
• *Spray the perfume near you. Be careful to not spray it near any kids with allergies.*

The woman didn’t just spray a little perfume on herself or on Jesus like we might expect. She went straight to Jesus and fell on her knees. She kissed His feet and cried. She opened the bottle and poured the expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet. Then she wiped His feet with her hair. Imagine if someone came in this room and did that to my feet right now. What would you be thinking? *(Allow responses.)*

Have you ever thought something mean about someone else? *(Group response)* Sadly, I have too. When the woman poured her perfume on Jesus’ feet, Simon the Pharisee thought something mean—about Jesus! The Bible tells us in the next verses that Jesus knew exactly what Simon the Pharisee was thinking. Let’s read more of our story and see what happened next.

**2. Jesus knows our heart.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 2 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Luke 7:40–46*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.40-46)*.*

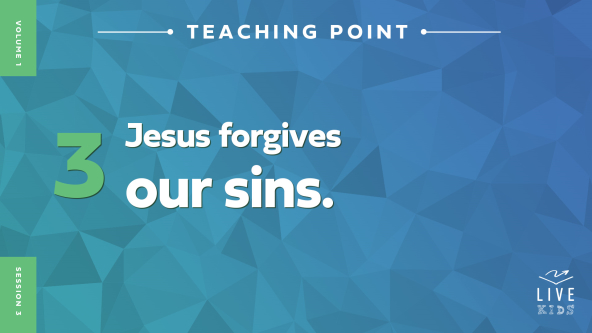
Think about all the things Jesus knew in this moment. Jesus knew what Simon the Pharisee was thinking. He also knew this woman realized she really needed forgiveness. Jesus knew He was the only One who could rescue her from sin. He knew everything about her past and everything about her future.

Jesus also knew Simon and the other Pharisees cared more about following rules than helping people. They didn’t love people enough to spend time with anybody different from them. They were too busy judging others who didn’t follow their rules to see why Jesus cared about sinful people like this woman.

So Jesus took time to teach Simon the Pharisee about forgiveness and love. Jesus reminded Simon of the things he hadn’t done for Jesus. Simon hadn’t welcomed Jesus properly into his home. Simon hadn’t given water to Jesus so He could wash His feet after walking in the dusty streets. But the woman had done all that and more—with a pure heart! Simon the Pharisee needed to learn a few things that day.

**3. Jesus forgives our sins.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 3 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Luke 7:47–50*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.47-50)*.*

Jesus said the woman loved Him so much because she had been forgiven for so much. After Jesus forgave her sins, she was able to go and live in peace.

Can you imagine being in Simon the Pharisee’s house that night? *(Group response)* Why don’t you close our eyes and give it a try? *(Pause while kids close their eyes.)* Picture this woman who others didn’t like or want to be around. She came into the house and put perfume on Jesus’ feet. She loved Him so much that she cried and wiped His feet with her hair. She didn’t let what other people might be thinking about her stop her. She didn’t let her past sins stop her. She didn’t let embarrassment stop her. She ignored the Pharisees complaining about her. She so desperately needed to be forgiven by Jesus that she brought her very best gift.

You can open your eyes. Earlier I asked who had made mistakes, and all of us said we had. But the incredible thing about Jesus is that He forgives all our mistakes when we ask—the smallest mistakes, the biggest mistakes, and everything in between.

• *Hold up the paper that you’ve written on.*

On this paper, I’ve written something that I need forgiveness for. Watch what happens when I put it in the water.

• *Put the paper in the clear bowl of water, and let the kids watch it disappear.*

That’s what Jesus can do for you and me. He knows us. He knows our mistakes in the past, and He still loves us no matter what. His forgiveness is for everyone. I’m so thankful He loves you and me no matter what mistakes we’ve made.

**Prayer and Response**

*Consider playing a worship song softly in the background while kids pray.*

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Disappearing paper, one piece per kid*  *• Pens, one per kid*  *• Optional: Thick paper towels and washable markers, one per kid*  *• Buckets of water, one or more depending on group size*  *• Plastic tablecloths*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Fill the buckets with water.*  *• Set up as many response stations as needed by placing buckets on plastic tablecloths on the floor.*  *• If you don’t have disappearing paper, adapt the activity to use paper towels and washable markers.* |

When we hear about Jesus’ forgiveness, we should do something about it. Let’s do that now. You’ll get a piece of paper like mine. I want you to write on it a sin or mistake you’ve made. Think of something you need Jesus’ forgiveness for. It can be a giant mistake or a small one. If you can’t think of anything, then write our Faith Fact: **I can be forgiven**.

• *Hand out a sheet of paper and a pen to each kid.*

• *Give kids time to respond. Help kids write their response if needed.*

• *Try to keep the group reverent during this time, not allowing a lot of chatter.*

In a moment, each of you will come forward and drop your paper in the water to symbolize Jesus forgiving our sins. The Bible says when Jesus forgives us, He takes our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west. That means He doesn’t hold our mistakes against us. He forgives us totally and completely. When you put your paper in the water, I want you to simply pray, “Jesus, thank You for Your forgiveness.”

• *Instruct kids when to come up. If your group is large, bring forward one group at a time, so the kids are not crowded around the water.*

**Prayer**

*Optional: Have the kids repeat phrases of the prayer after you.*

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| --- |
| *Dear Jesus, thank You for Your forgiveness. Thank You for forgiving me totally and completely. Thank You for reminding me to be like You and forgive other people too. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse**

I’m so thankful Jesus forgives us! Asking Jesus to forgive our sins is one way we pursue Him wholeheartedly, so let’s review our Faith Verse. Let’s do the actions together.

• *Play* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



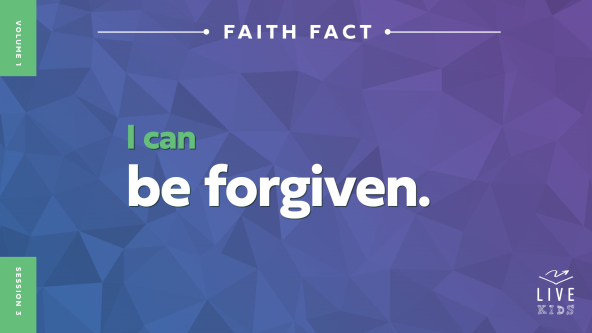
[Jeremiah 29:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Je29.13) (NLT)

“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

**Faith Fact**

Let’s go over our Faith Fact too. **I can be forgiven.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



That Faith Fact is so awesome, I feel like celebrating! After we say it, let’s jump up and down and yell, “Woo-hoo!” Ready? **I can be forgiven.** Woo-hoo! It’s so much fun learning about Jesus with you. I’m really glad you’re here today!

• *Dismiss kids to Small Group time or to go home if your group time ends here.*

**Small Group**

**30 Minutes**

*This section can be done in conjunction with the large group or on its own if you do small groups with your kids. During Small Group time, the goal is to connect the kids with the Word of God and to each other. All activities are led by the small group leader.*

**Group Connection**

**Name Tap**

In our Bible story, Simon the Pharisee thought he knew all about the woman with the perfume, but only Jesus really knew her. Today, you’re going to get to know each other a little better. First, we’ll go around the circle, and everyone will say their name once. Make sure you’re listening, because you’ll need to know everyone’s names for our game.

• *Have kids say their name.*

Here’s how we’ll play. I’ll choose someone to walk around the outside of the group. You’ll gently tap one person’s head and tell us their name and something about them. If you don’t know them very well, just say their name, and then ask them to share something about themselves. Then you’ll trade places with that person, and they’ll get to choose someone next. Let’s play.

• *Keep playing until everyone has had a chance to share.*

Getting to know people is important to Jesus. He cared about the woman in our story today and changed what Simon the Pharisee knew about her. He wants us to help everyone feel welcome and loved too. Thanks for sharing!

**Bible Lesson Recap**

• *If small group activities are not immediately following large group time, you may want to read the Bible story passage before the discussion.*

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Bibles for kids in the group to share*  *No prep needed for this activity.* |

**Bible Story Review: A Sinner Comes Humbly to Jesus** [**Luke 7:36–50**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.36-50)

In our story today, Jesus was eating dinner at Simon the Pharisee’s house when a woman walked in. People knew that she had made a lot of mistakes and sinned a lot. Simon the Pharisee was upset she was there, but she didn’t let that stop her. She walked straight to Jesus, knelt at His feet, started crying, and wiped His feet with her hair. Then she broke her jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His feet. She knew Jesus could forgive all her sins, and she poured out her very best gift to show her love for Him.

Jesus taught Simon the Pharisee and the other guests about forgiveness that night. Jesus used the woman’s example to explain that people who have been forgiven a lot also show a lot of love and thankfulness. Jesus forgave the woman, and He told her to go in peace. The dinner guests wondered what kind of Man would offer forgiveness of sins. The truth is, He was the Messiah—the Son of God.

• *Give each kid a Bible and read the Bible story together.*

**Group Discussion**

*Feel free to use all or just a few questions as a jumping-off place for good discussion. Questions marked with \* are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group. Typically, older kids will be able to dive a little deeper than younger ones.*

**Questions**

Do you think the woman in our Bible story had a lot of friends? Or do you think she was lonely? Explain.

\* Do you think the woman was scared to go into Simon the Pharisee’s house? Why or why not?

Why do you think she chose to take expensive perfume instead of some other gift?

\* What stood out to you about the way Simon the Pharisee acted toward the woman?

Why was Simon the Pharisee so upset she was there?

\* What do you think the woman’s life was like before Jesus forgave her?

\* When the woman left the house, how do you think her life was different?

\* What might this Bible story mean for us?

How can we show forgiveness to others?

**Live It**

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact is **I can be forgiven**. One of the best ways for us to live this out is to tell others that they can be forgiven by Jesus, too!

**Challenge**

This week, tell a friend or family member what you learned about forgiveness today. Maybe you could share this Bible story and explain how Jesus forgave the woman and how thankful she was. Or you could tell them about the way Jesus has forgiven you.

**Prayer**

*Finish group discussion by sharing prayer requests and praise reports. Keep track of your small group’s prayer requests and review them each time you meet.*

• *Have kids share and pray for each other’s prayer requests.*

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| *Dear Jesus, help us to be an example of Your forgiveness to others. Help us be bold and willing to forgive people who have hurt us. Help us to tell our friends and family that Your forgiveness is for them, too. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse Review**

I love our Faith Verse because it reminds us that Jesus is always there when we look for Him. We can always find Him, and He forgives us completely. Let’s review it now.

• *Show* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Jeremiah 29:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Je29.13) (NLT)

“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

**Faith Verse Fun**

**Get Creative!**

Let’s divide into groups of two or three people. I want to see which group can work together to be the most creative. You’ll have a few minutes to come up with a creative way to present the Faith Verse to the rest of the group. For example, you might act out the verse or say it in a fun way—like a cheer or a song. Or you could come up with a situation that shows how we can look for Jesus like the verse says. Are you ready to take on this challenge? *(Group response)*

• *Have the kids form groups of two or three and allow them to brainstorm and practice.*

• *Give each group time to present to the rest of the kids.*

I love seeing the creativity that happens when you learn and grow together. You did an amazing job presenting the Faith Verse creatively and working together as a team!

**Activity Page**

**Finish the Picture**

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| ***You Will Need***  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid*  *• Pencils or pens, one per kid*  *• Crayons or markers*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.* |

In our Bible story today, the woman brought a very beautiful and expensive jar of perfume to Jesus. On your ***Activity Page***, finish drawing the other half of the jar.

• *Give each kid a copy of the* ***Small Group Activity Page*** *and a pencil.*

Jesus forgave the woman for all her sins. His forgiveness is for us too! Think about who in your life needs to know more about Jesus and His forgiveness. Then write that person’s name on your jar. When you’re done, add beautiful designs to your jar.

• *Give kids crayons or markers to decorate their jars.*

• *After they have had time to complete the page, talk with the kids individually about the person they chose and how they decorated their jar.*

This week, look for a time to talk to the person you chose. Be brave and tell them that Jesus wants to forgive them just like He forgave you and the woman in our story.

**Dismissal**

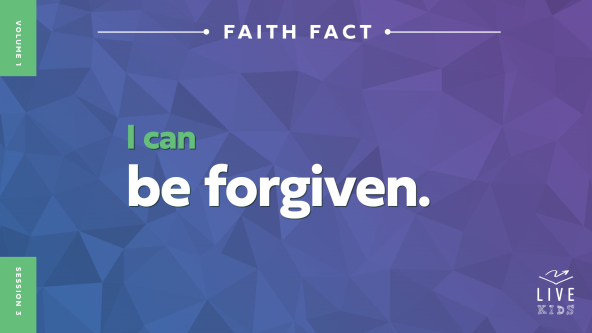
You’ve done a great job with all our games and activities today! I hope you’ve learned a lot about Jesus and His forgiveness for you and others. Let’s pray.

**Prayer**

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| --- |
| *Dear Jesus, thank You for our time together today. Help us live for You and pursue You every day. Amen.* |

**Faith Fact Recap**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Jesus loves you so much that He died on the cross so your sins could be forgiven. Remember our Faith Fact? Let’s say it together one more time. **I can be forgiven**. I’m glad you came today. I can’t wait to see you next time.

• *Send home the* ***Small Group Activity Page.***

• *Remind parents that there are* ***Family Devotions*** *available on the app to do with their kid.*

• *Tell everyone the date and time for the next session.*