Key Thought: Being able to forgive others and understanding that God does forgive us when we ask Him to, are essential doctrinal concepts that we all must internalize to be able to ‘GO’ in the kingdom of God.

**Key Information Page**

Key Verse: Matthew 6:14 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:”

Key Teaching Point: You, as the teacher, need to remember that your students don’t hold grudges as adults do. So, the concept of forgiveness is easier for them to grasp. However, they still must let hurt go, and believe that God does forgive them when they ask. Pray this week that a spiritual healing takes place in your students as they embrace this week’s concepts.

Key Materials: A plastic bat; poster board with today’s verse on one side and the word ‘GO’ on the other side; two sets of index cards with one word of the verse Matthew 6:14 written on them; a sign that says, “stop and think,” Bible costumes and a supply of paper and pens or pencils.

Key of making it your own: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Forgiveness from God and Man

**level 3 Lesson 10**

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**God does not carry around a baseball bat**

A teacher comes in with a plastic baseball bat and whacks it on things in the room as he or she rants and raves! The verbatim could be something like, “Just let me find the person, or animal, who got into my Oreo cookies! When I do, they are going to get a thumping they deserve!” Another teacher comes in and asks, “Would you be scared if you were the person who ate those cookies? I certainly would be! It is sad, but some people view God that way. They think He is waiting up in heaven for the people to do something wrong, so He can ‘get-um!’ But this is the furthest thing from the truth. The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” God wants to forgive!

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**We all need GO!**

We all need ‘GO’ in our lives!!! ‘GO’ stands for forgiveness by **God and** forgiving **Others**. Make a green poster board sign on a paint stick with the word ‘GO’ on it. Explain to your students that you cannot make it successfully as Christians without God’s forgiveness and forgiving Others. Then read them the ‘GO’ verse: Matthew 6:14 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” Keep this ‘Go’ sign handy because you will be using it throughout today’s lesson.

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**Relay Race**

This game is in the same order as red light, green light. Have the class line up in two lines. Print this verse, Matthew 6:14, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you”, in two different sets of index cards. For smaller classes you can adjust how many words you use per card. Put a set of identical cards in front of both lines. When you put up the ‘GO’ sign, the students may run to the other side of the room and place a card of the passage to make their verse complete. When the ‘GO’ sign comes down, they cannot run, or move, they must stop. If they do not stop when the ‘GO’ sign comes down, they must go back and start again. The first team to complete the verse is the winner.

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**Forgiving others**

Children need to learn how to forgive others. Have all the children close their eyes. Tell them to think of someone that has done them wrong; whether they have called them a name, hurt them, or betrayed them. Tell the students that it doesn’t matter who the person is, it could be another kid, friend, or even a parent. Now, have them to picture this person in their mind. Ask the children to say aloud, “I forgive you.” This may sound silly, but it works! Forgiving others is an important action that students need to learn. In a child’s mind, it really is easy to forgive others. Then, show them the ‘GO’ sign and tell the class they are on their way!

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\O8ZCLLJJ\MC900304325[1].wmf Making the connection to the Word!

**‘GO’ story!**

Tell the students that today you are going to tell the ‘GO’ story of the Bible. This story explains how God forgives and how others need to react. This story is best if you have actors act out the story and the teacher use a “Stop and Think” sign in different places in the story. This story can be done by just one person telling the story, but it is much better if a couple of people drag a woman in against her will, and Jesus writes in the sand and acts it out while another uses the “Stop and Think” sign.

John 8:3-5 “And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, they say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?”

“Stop and Think”: All actors freeze, and the teacher asks, “What do you think Jesus should have done?” That woman was bad! Get your class thinking!

John 8:6-9 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*. So when they continued asking him, he lifted himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

“Stop and Think”: All actors freeze, then the teacher asks the students, “What do you think Jesus wrote in the sand? Why do you think he told them, if they had no sin, they could throw the first stone?”

John 8:9-11 “And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. (all actors walk out)

“Stop and Think”: Emphasize that we don’t know what Jesus wrote, but he was probably writing their sins in the sand. Emphasize the words ‘GO’ and sin no more.

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**Neither do I condemn you**

Have your students write down what God has dealt with them about on a piece of paper. Have them write all the things that they need forgiveness for. Tell them that no one will read it. Then, have them fold it and bring it up to you. With a pair of scissors, cut each paper into tiny pieces and repeat God’s Words, “Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more.”

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**Altar call**

Take all the cut-up pieces of sins from the previous object lesson and scatter them all over the front of the room. Ask all the students to come forward and stand on the pieces of paper. Tell the students, “It is now time to really ‘GO’!” Once they have forgiven others, and understand God does forgive them, they can ‘GO’ in the Holy Ghost! If they have never received the Holy Ghost, or they spoke in tongues five minutes ago, it is still time to ‘GO’ in the HOLY GHOST!