WEEK
Four
2nd-3rd Grade

FORGIVENESS

Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

Read Colossians 1:14 — DAY 1

This passage talks about who? Yes, Jesus! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to do what no one else could do. He willingly faced the worst punishment of all, death on a cross, for you and for me. Why? So that we could be forgiven.

Grab some masking tape and a piece of paper. Use the masking tape to create a cross in the center of the page. Use a crayon or marker to color the page any way you choose. When finished, remove the tape in the center to reveal the cross. Then, write today's verse inside the cross, filling in the blanks as indicated below.

"Because of what Jesus has done, _____ has been set free. Because of Jesus, all
Your name
my sins have been forgiven." Colossians 1:14

Have you heard this good news before? Do you understand why Jesus chose to give His life so that you could be forgiven? If not, ask your parent or another trusted adult who follows God about what Jesus has done. Pray that God would help you follow Him and trust in Jesus so that you can be forgiven.

Read Romans 3:23 — DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper and draw a target on the center. Wad up a few pieces of paper to use as your "darts." Hang up the target and stand several feet away. See if you can hit the target right in the center, standing in the exact same spot, 15 times in a row. Probably pretty difficult, right?

Sin is a little word that causes a lot of big problems. To sin means to miss the mark. Sin isn't just a problem for you, it's a problem for everyone. Imagine if God said, "Hey, if you want to have a relationship with me, then you need to hit the bullseye every single time." That would be like God saying, "If you want to have a relationship with me, you have to be perfect."

Guess what? No one can measure up to God's glory and perfection. But God loves you. He sent Jesus to die on the cross so that you can be forgiven.

Take a look at your dart board. Ask God to help you accept the forgiveness He offers when you miss the mark. Thank Him for sending Jesus so that you could be forgiven.

Read Ephesians 2:4-5 DAY 3

Grab a piece of foil from the kitchen. Crumple it into a ball and then spread it back out on the counter. Can you make it look as shiny and smooth as it did before? Nope! This is kind of how our lives look when we mess up. Remember, everyone messes up. It's not just you. We all look like that crumpled up piece of foil.

God knows that no matter how hard we might try, we can never fix all those mess-ups on our own. **But God LOVES us deeply.** He is full of mercy. God sent Jesus so that our sins, our mess-ups, could be forgiven. His grace, which we cannot earn and do not deserve, has saved us. That's how BIG God's love is for you and for me.

Grab a ball point pen and draw a large heart in the center of your piece of foil. Use to pen to create a cool design inside the heart, creating ridges in the foil. Color in your design with permanent markers. Hang your heart in a place where you'll see it each day.

Tell God thank you for loving you so much that He sent His only Son so that everyone can be forgiven.

Read Acts 10:43 DAY 4

Think about the last time someone hurt you. How did you respond? Did you say something unkind back? Are you still mad?

Do you see the word "all" in today's verse? It's comes up twice. First, it talks about how *all* the prophets, (men chosen by God to deliver an important message) tell us about Jesus. And all who believe in Him will be forgiven.

"All" includes the kid you still haven't forgiven. All includes your parents, your teachers, your favorite coach, and your grandparents. All includes the kids no one talks to and the kids everyone wants to hang out with. All includes you. God loves you so much and His forgiveness is SO big that it covers everything.

Everyone needs forgiveness. God sent His only Son, to die and be buried and rise again so that our sin, the mess ups we all make, would no longer separate us from Him. As you pray today, thank God for the forgiveness He offers to everyone. Ask Him to help you choose to forgive, because everyone needs forgiveness.