

HELP WEEK

CHOOSE FORGIVENESS



Helping each other believe and share the Good News of Jesus.



HOST

PART 1 - STARTING THE CLUB

“Welcome to First Priority. We are glad you are here! This month we will learn how freeing it is to choose forgiveness and that we forgive others, because we have been forgiven. Let’s start things off with prayer.”

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCE SPEAKER: “Today my friend _____ is going to talk about what it looks like to forgive others and share a Help Tool that will show it.”



SPEAKER

PART 2 - HELP WEEK DISCUSSION

- Look over the Help Week Discussion page and Help Tool to make sure you understand it.
- Read the Help Week discussion.
- Then pass out the **Candy Cane Gospel** to each student.
- **HELP TOOL:** Candy Cane Gospel



HOST

PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE for “H” Week

Speak the Truth

- Post on your social media a picture of the Candy Cane Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Everyone remember to share the Good News of Jesus with someone this week. Next week is Overcome Week! Start thinking now about who you can invite to join you as we continue our theme Choose Forgiveness.”

CLOSING PRAYER

BEHIND THE SCENES



PROMO

Invite people and promote the club meeting.



WELCOME

Create a welcoming environment.



FOLLOW UP

Be available for anyone who would like to pray or talk more.



SPEAKER

HELP WEEK DISCUSSION

CHOOSE FORGIVENESS

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” **Ephesians 4:32**

EXPLAIN

In a fallen world, forgiveness is essential to maintain close relationships. We all need forgiveness, and we all need to grant forgiveness. Why? Because we all sin, and we all have been sinned against. But asking for and granting forgiveness are not easy tasks! If you're a Christian, asking and granting forgiveness are not optional. Jesus said in Matthew chapter 6 verse 15, that if you do not forgive others, the heavenly Father will not forgive you: “but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” It is important for you as a Christian to understand and practice forgiveness.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 31 how we are to put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander. In verse 32, it tells us how we are to replace these sins: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” What does it mean to ask forgiveness or to forgive someone? Paul says that we are to forgive each other “just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” God didn't say, “Hey, don't worry about it. We all make mistakes!” He didn't just brush our sin aside. He requires that the penalty be paid. But in love, He sent His own Son to bear the penalty that we deserved.

How do we put forgiveness into practice? To forgive someone is to promise not to bring the matter up again or use it against them. God forgives us, so that we may be reconciled to Him and enjoy a close relationship with Him. When we forgive others, we should also seek to restore the broken relationship. This does not always mean becoming best of friends, but it should at least mean that we are friendly towards the person. To say, “I forgive you, but I never want to see your ugly face again,” is not to forgive as God forgives! We are still commanded to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who mistreat us. Luke chapter 6 verses 27 and 28: “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

When you forgive, you will get rid of your bitterness, which eats at your soul. You will enjoy restored relationships with others, along with many other blessings. But the most important thing is that you will glorify God with your actions.

APPLY

Today's Help Tool is the Candy Cane Gospel. It is a great way to share how Jesus forgives. (Pass out a candy cane and a card to each person. Instructions below will help you explain.)

The shape of the candy cane reminds us of a **Shepherd's Staff**. In John chapter 10 verse 14, it says, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”

- The **Red Stripe** on the candy cane represents the blood that Jesus shed to forgive us of our sins. Romans chapter 5 verse 8 says, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” We need forgiveness, because in Romans chapter 3 verse 23, we are reminded that we ALL have sinned: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- The **White Candy** represents the forgiveness of sins and a clean heart. First John chapter 1 verse 19 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- When the candy cane is turned upside down, it represents a “**J**” for **Jesus!** To begin a relationship with Him, we must do what Romans chapter 10 verse 9 says, “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

RESPOND

Let's get into groups and practice sharing the Candy Cane Gospel, before we leave today. It is a great example of forgiveness.

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

Forgive each other just as Jesus forgave you.

FORGIVENESS

HELP WEEK TOOL

CHOOSE FORGIVENESS

FORGIVENESS

CANDY CANE GOSPEL



SHEPHERD'S STAFF
JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:14

RED STRIPES
REPRESENT THE BLOOD THAT JESUS SHED ON THE CROSS TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS
Romans 5:8

WHITE CANDY
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1 JOHN 1:9

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