

# WEEK FIVE

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## READ LUKE 19:8-10

**DAY 1**

Take a walk outside and look around at the ground, the trees, and everything that is growing. Your parents might garden or mow the lawn, but for the most part, plants and grass that grow outside can change and grow on their own. But bring a plant indoors, and suddenly that plant needs a lot of help from you. It is trapped and it's not going to be able to grow and change on its own. You have to free up the plant to grow by giving it what it needs: water and sun.

Zacchaeus was stuck and trapped by the wrong things he was doing. But when he was given what he needed—forgiveness—he was able to change. Forgiveness changed Zacchaeus' life. Instead of cheating people, he paid them back even more than he took from them. Have you ever experienced forgiveness that changed you? Before you go back inside, take some time to thank God for His gift of forgiveness.

**THANK** God for the gift of forgiveness and second chances.

## READ EPHESIANS 1:7

**DAY 2**

Get a few sheets of blank paper—if you have colored construction paper, even better. With a parent's help, cut the paper into long strips. Use tape or glue to make a circle out of a strip (by gluing the two ends of one strip together). Stick another strip inside the circle, then glue those two ends together, and so on, until you have a long chain of paper strips. Use the final strip to bring the entire chain together into a circle.

Hang the chain somewhere to remind you how when you don't forgive, it's like being in chains. You are putting the other person in chains, but you're also keeping yourself from being free when you don't forgive. The next time someone hurts you and you choose to forgive, break the chain in half, but leave it hanging to remind you that when you forgive, you're setting yourself and the other person free!

**ASK** God to help you set yourself and others free through forgiveness.



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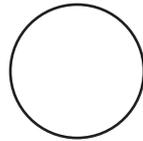
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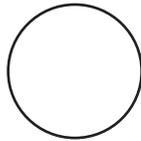
## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 2:7

**DAY 3**

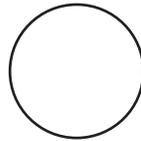
Inside of each circle, draw the eyes, nose, and mouth of someone who is feeling the emotion written below the circle.



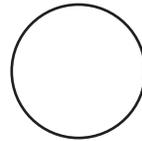
HAPPY



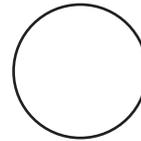
RELIEVED



ANGRY



SAD



GOOD

Draw a square around the face that looks like your face when someone has done something wrong to you. Also draw a square around the face that represents how someone who has hurt you might feel. Next, draw a circle around the face that looks like you if you choose to forgive. Then put an "X" around the faces that you put the boxes around earlier. Lastly, put a star above the two faces that look like the person you chose to forgive and yourself, after you've forgiven them.

Look at the difference in the faces with the squares around them and the ones with the stars above them. The starred faces represent how you and the person you forgive can look if you choose to forgive—a much better look, don't you think?

**LOOK** at how you can change a life if you just forgive!

## READ JAMES 5:16

**DAY 4**

Saying you forgive someone is one thing ... but how can you let go of the hurt? Sometimes the things people do to us hurt our feelings so badly that we can't imagine ever REALLY forgiving and letting go. The great news is God has given us a great tool to help us: prayer! Praying for others not only helps them, but it helps us! It's really hard to stay mad at someone when you're praying for them.

Is there someone you are having a hard time forgiving? Write out a prayer below, asking God to help you forgive that person, but also just praying for God to bless that person. Pray for that person's health, happiness, and future. And the next time you're feeling that anger creep back in your heart, come back to this prayer and pray it again!

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**KNOW** that prayer helps lead to a heart of forgiveness.