



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

YOU BEFORE ME
WEEK 1 FORGIVE OTHERS

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: **What would you do with a giant bag of gummy bears?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

Per Kid	Nothing
Per Group	1 roll of yarn

After Activity

Kids Keep	Nothing
You Keep	The roll of yarn (<i>Throw it away</i>)

To Do

Say: Let's see what happens if we hold onto hurt.

1. The first kid **says** a hurtful thing someone has done in the past, **holds** the end of the yarn, and **tosses** the roll to another kid.
2. The next kid **says** a hurtful thing someone did and **tosses** the roll **without letting go** of the yarn.
3. **Repeat** so all kids get a turn and a yarn web is made.

Say: Now, don't let go! Keep holding the yarn and give your neighbor a double high five and shake their hand!

4. Kids **try** to do what you said without letting go.

Say: It's harder to show God's love when you're holding onto unforgiveness. Let's forgive and let these hurts go!

5. **Count** to three, **drop** the yarn, and **start** high fiving and hand shaking.
6. **If time allows, repeat** the game.

Ask this after kids play.

1. **What made it difficult to high five and shake hands?** *Holding onto the yarn*

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

God's love forgives.

Colossians 3:13 NLT

... *Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

1. **What's a good reason we should forgive others?**
God forgave us first.

Choose a few review questions.

1. **When you hold onto anger and hurt, what do you think will be harder for you to do?** *Be kind, have a good attitude, feel peace, etc.*
2. **How do you think forgiveness shows God's love?**
Answers will vary.
3. **When you forgive, which is more important: letting go of anger or getting even?** *Letting go of anger*
4. **If you hold onto anger instead of forgiving, what kind of attitude do you think you'll start to show?**
Answers will vary.
5. **What if someone isn't sorry or you'll never, ever see them again—how do you think it will help you to forgive them?** *Answers will vary.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **What can you do this week to show others that God's love forgives?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What can you do if someone hurts you, but you really, really don't want to forgive them?** *Pray, read about forgiveness in the Bible, ask God to do good things for the person who hurt you, etc.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, please help us forgive to keep our hearts healthy and so others will know what Your love is like. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **play** the game again.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.

Please save questions on back for Small Group Discussion.