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WEEK 2

BIG IDEA

We know forgiveness because of Jesus.

BIBLE

Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11; (Acts 19:1-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

MUSIC | YouTube Praise



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play "[What A Beautiful Name](#)" by Hillsong Kids for the kids to sing along to.

ACTIVITY | Snap Jack!



- Speaking of snaps, let's try another game that involves a differing kind of snapping.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups of 2-8 players. Distribute a deck of cards facedown as evenly as possible among the players in each group. Each kid quickly places the top card from their stack onto the middle of the table, face up. Players take turns placing cards, and when a Jack is placed on the stack. the first player to snap or clap wins the pile. If the game is taking

the cards, the first player to snap or clap wins the game. If the game is taking too long, you can set a time limit and count cards to determine a winner when time expires. The person with the most cards wins. Optional: Play any of the official educational "SNAP IT UP" card games rules.

- This game really put your reflexes to the test! You had to see a card with your eyes, your eyes told your brain what card it was, then your brain told your hands to snap or clap – and all of that happened so fast!
- Did you know that's how easy it can be to ask for forgiveness from God? You have to recognize that what you're doing is a sin, pray and ask God to forgive you and . . . snap! God forgives you!

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:4-11



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Summarize the Bible Story in Mark 1:4-11.*
- John the Baptist was a very popular prophet who was baptizing people with water and teaching about forgiveness. But the people kept coming back to him over and over again because they continued to make poor choices and hurt each other.
 - **Have you ever tried your best to do something, but for some reason, you just could not make a good choice? Have you ever hurt someone even though you didn't mean to?**
- John the Baptist knew that humans could not live a perfect life. There had to be a true Savior who could baptize us humans with the Holy Spirit, and who will forgive us of all our sins. And that person is Jesus!
 - **How would you act if you met Jesus?**
- When John the Baptist met and baptized Jesus, the sky opened up and God spoke and said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
 - **If the sky opened up and God was speaking about you, what do you think God would say?**
- In that moment, everyone knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was the true Savior of the world, who came to forgive all of our sins!

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 2



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- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

STORY | When We Don't Want to Forgive



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids a story of a time when someone hurt you or was unkind to you. Did you want to forgive them? How did you forgive them?
- **What about you? Was there ever a time when you didn't want to forgive someone because they were unkind to you?**
- We all have been hurt by someone. It's not easy to forgive, but because Jesus forgives us, we can forgive others, too!

OBJECT LESSON | Heart of Forgiveness



- The thing is, we all need forgiveness, and Jesus is the only one who can forgive all of our sins.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, cut a white poster board and red cellophane into the shape of a heart. On the white heart, write "my heart" at the center in black crayon. Staple the red cellophane on top of the white heart. Then flip the red cellophane heart over so that it's behind the white heart for now.*
- **What are some things we might need forgiveness for?** *[Write the kids' responses on the white heart with a red crayon.]*
- This red cellophane represents Jesus. *[Flip the cellophane back down over the heart.]*
- The sins we wrote are gone. You can no longer see them!
- **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.**

NOW WHAT?

ESPONSE | Click Now!



- Did you know that things posted online could live there forever? Once it's out there, it's almost impossible to take it back because someone somewhere has seen it . . . even if you delete it!
- That's kind of what happens when we sin. **Have you ever done something you wish you hadn't done and you felt badly afterward?** Even if you do feel sorry about it later, you can't undo the damage.
- But like we've been talking about, there is someone who can erase your sins forever. Jesus!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hand out a Click Now printable to each kid. Have them read the card and fill it out. (If your church offers baptism for kids, you can add that in as an option on the card before you print it.)*
- There's no button or link you can actually click, but praying to God can be just as simple. Aren't you glad **we can know forgiveness because of Jesus?**

ACTIVITY | Just Dance Party



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For any of the kids who have decided to follow Jesus, it's a celebration! Turn on the [Just Dance video](#)! Have some party streamers for the kids to play with while dancing. For kids who haven't indicated that they are ready to follow Jesus quite yet, it doesn't mean that they can't join in on celebrating, too. If you'd like, you could also use this time for small group leaders to connect with them and walk them through getting to know Jesus.*
- Let's dance and party because through Jesus, we can know forgiveness!

PRAYER



- Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and showing us what true forgiveness is. Remind us to turn to you right away whenever we need Your forgiveness, and help us to offer that forgiveness to others as well. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION



- **Why did John baptize people with water?**
- **What happened when Jesus got baptized?**
- **What did God say about Jesus?**
- **Read Mark 1:8. John says that he baptizes with water, but how will Jesus baptize people?**
- **Is getting baptized by water enough to receive forgiveness?**
- **Describe a time when you needed to forgive someone. What about a time when you needed forgiveness?**

time when you needed forgiveness:

- What does it mean to be forgiven?

ACTIVITY | Washed Away



- We all make mistakes and sometimes, our mistakes can be hurtful to a friend.
- Today, we will practice saying good things to each other.
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INSTRUCTIONS: *Have kids get in pairs or groups of three. Give each pair or group some washable paint, a piece of paper, a bucket of water, and a washcloth. Tell the kids to form a "thumbs up" sign with their hands, dip it in paint, then stamp it on the paper. Then, encourage them to wash the paint off each other's hands and as they do, say one compliment about the other person.*

- Thumbs up to all of you for saying kind words and helping each other wash the paint off. Just like how the water washed away the paint, Jesus washes away our sins – and he doesn't even need a washcloth. **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.**