

"Forgiven and Free – Just Like a Pencil and Eraser"

Objective:

To understand the power of forgiveness—God's forgiveness for us, our need to forgive others, and how forgiving sets us free.

1. Opening Illustration

“This pencil represents our lives. Every day, we write something with our words, choices, and actions. But sometimes, we make mistakes. That’s where the eraser comes in. It’s not meant to be pretty. It’s meant to remove what was wrong, giving us another chance to write again.”

2. Scripture Teaching

Verse 1: 1 John 1:9 (God forgives us)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Teaching Point:

God already knows the mistakes we make, but He invites us to come to Him honestly. He’s like that eraser—willing to wipe the slate clean. He doesn’t just leave a smudge—He cleans completely.

Verse 2: Matthew 6:14-15 (We must forgive others)

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Teaching Point:

Jesus makes it clear—just as we’re forgiven, we must forgive. Imagine if we kept holding onto the mistakes we made with this pencil—scribbling over them, trying to hide them—but never erasing them. That’s what it looks like when we don’t forgive others or ourselves.

Verse 3: Colossians 3:13 (Forgive like Christ)

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Teaching Point:

We don't forgive because people deserve it—we forgive because we've been forgiven. Forgiveness doesn't excuse the hurt, but it releases *us* from the burden. It's how we begin to heal.

3. Discussion Questions

(Invite the group to reflect or pair up.)

1. Can you think of a time when you needed God's forgiveness? How did it feel to be "erased clean"?
 2. Is there someone in your life you struggle to forgive? Why is it hard?
 3. How would your heart feel if you erased that weight and let it go?
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4. Closing Prayer

"Lord, thank You for being a God who forgives. Thank You for the eraser of grace that wipes away our sins and gives us a clean heart. Help us forgive others as You have forgiven us. Let us live free—free from guilt, free from bitterness, and full of Your peace. In Jesus' name, Amen."