

**WHAT TO PREPARE:** Print a copy of the “Verse Puzzle” for every participant. Let everyone cut their own pieces out and place them in a pile, in order. (Piece 1 on the top, piece 8 on the bottom.)

## WHAT YOU DO:

- Explain that they have a treasure map. (God’s Word is a treasure!)
- Have each person grab the same numbered piece. Work as a group to look up the Bible verse and fill in the blanks. These verses come from the NIrV translation which can be found at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) if you need it.
- The answers for piece 8: *Just like Jesus FORGAVE Peter, we should FORGIVE our friends too. Just like God sent Jesus to FORGIVE us, we should FORGIVE others.*
- For an extra challenge, make the kids do something fun *together* to earn each piece. For example, sing a song, say the alphabet backwards, crabwalk across the room, say a nursery rhyme, stand on one foot and pat their heads for 30 seconds, etc.

## WHAT YOU SAY:

The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness. We know that it’s the right thing to forgive one another, but it’s not always easy. What makes it so hard to forgive sometimes? *(Let kids respond.)* Look back at piece #1 and let’s say Ephesians 4:32 together. *“Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive one another, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.”*

God doesn’t have to forgive us, but aren’t you glad He chooses to! That’s what makes Jesus such a great friend. When we forgive our friends, we get to show them a little piece of Jesus. So this week let’s look for opportunities to share God’s grace with our family and friends.

1

Ephesians 4:32, Nlrv  
"Be kind and tender to one another. \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_ another, just as God \_\_\_\_\_ you because of what Christ has done."

2

Matthew 6:14, Nlrv  
"\_\_\_\_\_ other people when they sin against you. If you do, your Father who is in heaven will also \_\_\_\_\_ you."

3

Colossians 3:13, Nlrv  
"Put up with one another. \_\_\_\_\_ one another if you are holding something against someone. \_\_\_\_\_ just as the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ you."

4

Luke 17:3, Nlrv  
"So watch what you do. "If your brother or sister sins against you, tell them they are wrong. Then if they turn away from their sins, \_\_\_\_\_ them."

5

Luke 17:4, Nlrv "Suppose they sin against you seven times in one day. And suppose they come back to you each time and say, 'I'm sorry.' You must forgive them." How many times should we forgive? \_\_\_\_\_

6

1 John 1:9, Nlrv  
"But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will \_\_\_\_\_ our sins. He will \_\_\_\_\_ every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."

8

Just like Jesus f \_\_\_\_\_ Peter, we should f \_\_\_\_\_ others. Just like God sent Jesus to f \_\_\_\_\_ us, we should f \_\_\_\_\_ others.

7

Acts 3:19, Nlrv "So turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Then your sins will be wiped away. The time will come when the Lord will make everything new." What does it mean for your sins to be wiped away? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT TO DO:**

Print a copy for each participant and let them cut theirs apart on the dashed lines.

"Verse Puzzle"