

## Kick it Off

Begin this session by playing a few rounds of the game, “**Cross the Line.**” Have students line up horizontally on one side of the room. Use a line already in the classroom or use masking tape to make a line. Inform students when they believe a statement is true of themselves they should step over the line.

(You can ask from time to time for those over the line to look back at those who didn't cross the line)

- 1) **Cross the Line if** there is someone you need to forgive.
- 2) **Cross the Line if** you need to forgive yourself.
- 3) **Cross the Line if** you can forgive someone for stepping on your toe.
- 4) **Cross the Line if** you can forgive someone who called you names when you were younger.
- 5) **Cross the Line if** you can forgive someone who cheated on a family member.
- 6) **Cross the Line if** you can forgive someone who infected you with the AIDS virus.
- 7) **Cross the Line if** you believe Jesus will forgive your sins if you sincerely pray and ask him.

Have students take a seat and ask, “Is forgiveness easy or hard?” Elicit responses from the group. As students read Todd “Bangz” Elliott's story, help them to realize that even though forgiveness may be easy to some and hard for others, the Bible said it is necessary. Read the key verse and then read the story.

## Key Verse

*“If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* **Matthew 6.14,15, CEV**

## Keep it Real

**Small Group Study** Pass out the magazine or article to the entire group along with the study sheets. Divide the students into small groups and have students read the article and answer the questions as a group. Let each group know that they have 10 minutes to complete the task. After the ten minutes are up, have one group member from each group share out. Spend 20 minutes on this part of the assignment.

**Whole Group Study** Pass out the magazine or article to the entire group along with the study sheets. Read the article aloud. Ask for volunteers to read the other sections. Direct students to keep in mind the key verse about forgiveness. Then, discuss the questions in a whole group forum. Spend 20 minutes on this assignment.

## Keep the Faith

Give each student a full sheet of paper and an envelope (colored envelopes would be preferable). Ask students to think of someone they need to forgive. Have students write a letter to that person keeping in mind the key verse for this session.

It is imperative that students realize that although forgiveness is a tough thing to do (particularly in some circumstances), we have to forgive others or at least begin the journey. If Jesus can forgive us for the many things we do (or are still doing), we can forgive others.

## **Keep it Movin'**

Realize that forgiveness is a choice, but it is something God requires of us.

Begin to focus on the slogan, “*Let Go and Let God.*”

Begin your journey to forgiving others now.

As you show forgiveness to others, they may not accept it.

Remember, God knows your heart and sees everything you do. You can't make people forgive you, but you can do what you know is right and forgive them.

***Close in Prayer*** - Pray that you forgive others who have wronged you as well those you have wronged. Ask God to give you the freedom to let go of your past or present feelings of hurt and anger.