

GO!
Join the Story!

GROUP ACTIVITY

This activity can be used in a small group at church or even with your kids at home!

Ocean of Forgiveness

Set up: Fill a plastic bin or bucket $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with water.

Say: Today we learned that God's forgiveness is as big as the ocean. No matter how many or how few, no matter how big or how small, God's forgiveness can completely wipe out any sin. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us think about the sins that we need to throw into the ocean of God's forgiveness.

Directions: Place a bin or bucket of water against a wall. Give each kid in the group a ping pong ball and washable marker. (If you have fewer balls than kids, pass out as many balls as you have. Then, when one kid has finished the activity, give their ball to another kid.) Tell the kids to think of a sin that they commit more often than others or a sin that they feel is really big. For older kids, have them write that sin on their ball. For younger kids, have them color a dot on the ball to represent that sin. When ready, tell the kids that they're going to throw that sin into the ocean of God's forgiveness. For each kid, give them an age-appropriate challenge for how to do that. Examples: throw the ball from 3 feet away; 5 feet away; bounce the ball once and into the bin; bounce the ball twice and into the bin; bounce the ball off the wall and into the bin; bounce the ball off the floor, the wall, and into the bin; etc. If they don't succeed after a few tries, have them simply toss the ball directly into the bin of water. Once the ball is in the bin, use the water to wash the sin off and show the kids how God's forgiveness has wiped it away.

Question: Do you ever feel like your sins can be too many or too big to ask God for forgiveness? Why do you think some people feel that way?

Question: Do you wonder if some sins are so small that you don't need to ask God for forgiveness? (Read James 2:10 and tell the kids that even one small sin needs God's forgiveness.)

Question: How often do you ask God to forgive your sins?

Pray: Open the kids in prayer. Thank God for his enormous ocean of forgiveness. Allow the kids a moment to confess their sin to God (either silently or aloud) and to ask Him for forgiveness.