Discussion Ideas

Choose strategies from the list below to facilitate group discussion.

Connecting Activity

Ask each person in the group to share a time they forgave or were forgiven.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the villagers do when they found out the men they thought were criminals were responsible for their new water kiosk?
   - *They asked for forgiveness.*

2. Did Wanje deserve to be forgiven?
   - *She had not done anything to earn forgiveness; it was given freely.*

3. How does Wanje show courage in this story?
   - *She sets aside her pride and risks rejection.*

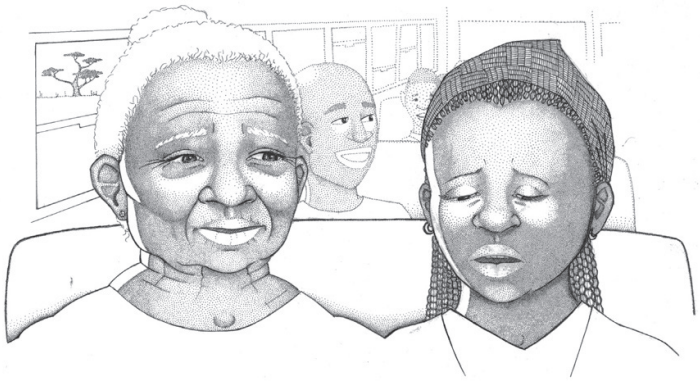
4. ▶What do you learn about true love from the story of Wanje?
   - *True love forgives without conditions.*

5. ▶Why is it hard to ask for forgiveness? What does it require of you?
   - *Set aside pride; be humble; admit wrong.*

6. ▶Think of someone you need to ask for forgiveness—perhaps someone you have hurt or offended in some way. What might you say to them to ask for their forgiveness?
   - *Practice different ways of asking for forgiveness.*

Personal Growth Activity

Write an appropriate apology to someone you have offended.



©2011 Kerus Global Publishing

Spiritual Application

Read Luke 15:11-32. Then ask: How does the son ask for forgiveness? What do you learn about forgiveness and about God's love from the father's response to the son? How have you experienced God's forgiveness?

Prayer Point

Encourage the group to take a moment and quietly talk to God about the things on their heart. After a few moments lead the group in a prayer asking God to forgive the things we have done that hurt or offended him. Thank him for his willingness to forgive quickly and throw his loving arms around us as the father did in the story told by Jesus.

Encouragement

Remind participants to live by the Golden Rule, to forgive as they would want to be forgiven. Acknowledge that forgivenesss can be a very hard choice, but it is the best choice. Use Grandma's waterpot example in the Grandma's Wisdom section.

Grandma's Wisdom

You see, children, forgiveness is simply a choice to never hold the offence against that person in our heart, especially when someone comes to you and asks you to forgive them for something they have done to you. Unforgiveness is like a heavy waterpot, a burden which you have to carry a long distance. It weighs us down terribly! But when you make a choice to let it go, the waterpot is lifted off you, and your burden is lighter.