

PARENT GUIDE

1-3 GRADE - MARCH 22

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13, NIV)

ACTIVITY: A PROPER REVIEW

WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

What You Do:

- Write (or print) the following parts of the story down on paper. Then divide the pieces of paper and scramble them up for kids to put in order from memory:
 - The younger of two sons asked his father for his share of the inheritance.
 - The father gave the money to his son.
 - The son packed up and left home for a faraway country.
 - There, the son wasted all his money.
 - The son became so hungry, he took a job caring for pigs.
 - The son decided to return home and beg to be let back in as a servant.
 - The father ran to meet him, gave him a hug, and gave him the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his feet.
 - The father threw a huge party to welcome his son home.

Once they are done, open the Bible and read Luke 15:11-24 to review if the story was placed in order correctly.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Why do you think Jesus told this story? How does our heavenly Father act like the earthly father in this story? (Pause for kids to respond and discuss.) The father in this story Jesus told had every right to be angry. While his father was still living, the son had asked for his inheritance, which is something that is only given when someone dies! And what did the son do with that hard-earned money? He wasted it. The father could have refused to see him or, at the very least, let him come back only as a servant. But what did he do? The father ran to him, hugged him, and forgave him. He was so happy to see him that he threw a big party to celebrate his return. Everyone needs to be forgiven. The good news for us is that God LOVES each one of us. He loves us SO much that He sent Jesus, His only Son. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, the stuff that separates us from God. Jesus made a way for EVERYONE to be forgiven! When we believe or trust in Jesus so that we can be forgiven, we can have a friendship with God forever!”

BIBLE STORY: PLEASE FORGIVE ME (LOST SON) • LUKE 15:11-24



DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- What is one way you responded this week when you've done something wrong?
- When has someone forgiven you? Encourage kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?

ACTIVITY: COMPLETE THE VERSE

Review the Memory Verse with your kids by playing a fun game of complete the verse! Here's what you'll do:

- Say "PUT UP WITH" and pause to have kids say the next three words, this will last until you get to Colossians 3:13!
- Continue the game by switching the words you leave out. Doing this helps kids have the Word planted in their hearts.

PRAYER

“God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We don't want to stay angry and blow up and do something unkind. Help us to let it go and choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.”

PARENT GUIDE

TWEENS – MARCH 22

MEMORY VERSE

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13, NIV)



ACTIVITY: P.I.G.

WHAT YOU NEED: BASKET, BALL

- What You Do:
- Set up a basket in the room for a basketball-type game.
- Explain kids will play a basketball game similar to HORSE except it is called PIG.
- To play:
- Kids (and parents, too!) take turns trying to get the ball into the basket.
- Once someone makes a basket, everyone in the group must duplicate the same shot, standing in the same spot with the same form.
- Anyone who misses gets a "P."
- or example: if the person closes his eyes and shoots with his left hand and the pig lands in the basket, then everyone in the group must close their eyes and shoot with their left hand. Anyone who misses the basket gets a "P."
- Then continue to try to make a basket.
- Encourage them to be silly and go for the "trick" shots.
- Every time someone misses a shot, he or she will receive another letter spelling the word "PIG."
- The last kid to spell "PIG" wins.
- What You Say:
- "Anyone have a guess why we used a pig instead of a basketball? Because there was a PIG in our story today!"

DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- What is one way you responded this week when you've done something wrong?
- When has someone forgiven you? Encourage kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

- Read Luke 15:17-19. Ask: What would you do if you were super mean to your parents, ran away, and now wanted to come home? Would it be anything like the Lost Son? Would you be memorizing a speech? Ask: What if you were super mean to God, ran away, and now wanted to come back to God? What would you say?
- Read Luke 15:20-21. In this story, the Father is like God. When we run away from God and want to come back, God runs to us and hugs us. Ask: Why was the Father so happy when he saw his son? Answer: He LOVES his son and was probably worried about him. Ask: Did the Father care that his son was mean to him? Answer: Of course he was hurt, but the Father chose to forgive because he loves his son so much. The story illustrates how much God loves us and forgives us.
- Read Luke 15:24. Ask: What does the father mean when he said "This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again?" Answer: The story illustrates spiritual life. The son was choosing to reject the father just like sometimes we choose to reject God. That is spiritual death. When we choose to follow God we have eternal life.

PRAYER

"God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We don't want to stay angry and blow up and do something unkind. Help us to let it go and choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

BIBLE STORY: PLEASE FORGIVE ME (LOST SON) • LUKE 15:11-24