

DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
FIVE

MARCH 2020

GRADES
2-3

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing
Father and Older Brother
Luke 15:21-32

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

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

BOTTOM LINE

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers
Tic-Tac-Toe Tournament

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Stop & Go" from *Little Praise Party-Taste and See*
"Live Your Love" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Party Hats
Party Time!
Memory Verse Building
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Paper
- Pencils

TIC-TAC-TOE TOURNAMENT

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tic-Tac-Toe grids created during Early Arriver
- Pencils

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1 and #2.

* 1. PARTY HATS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper party hats; one for each kid
- Markers
- Stickers

* 2. PARTY TIME!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tablecloth
- A treat or snack to eat (like cookies, fruit snacks, Goldfish® crackers, popsicles, etc.) OR small toys for a non-food option
- Napkins if providing a snack
- Party hats

3. MEMORY VERSE BUILDING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A Bible marked at Colossians 3:13
- Large popsicle sticks; seven for each kid
- Print and cut apart the sections of "Memory Verse Phrases" Activity Page; 1 half-page for each kid
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Zip-top baggies; one for each kid

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Party hats from earlier

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing
Father and Older Brother
Luke 15:21-32



CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

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

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help your few understand that forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting what's happened to you and ignoring its consequences. But it does mean that if you hold on to those wrongs, you'll miss out on relationships with others. Pray that God would give kids the courage to forgive the wrongs that have been done to them.

LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, welcome them by name and encourage any who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Pass out paper and a pencil to the kids and ask them to draw five or six blank Tic-Tac-Toe grids for the next activity.
- Encourage them to draw the boards as neatly as possible and to pay attention to the size of the boards relative to how much space they have on the page.
- As the kids are working, ask questions about their week.
 - Did anything crazy or silly happen this week?
 - If you could go back and relive one day or event from this past week, what would it be and why?
 - Tell me about a time this week when you forgave someone. What happened?

BOTTOM LINE

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing
Father and Older Brother
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PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

MEMORY VERSE

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LIFE APP

**Forgiveness—Deciding that
someone who has wronged
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BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

2. TIC-TAC-TOE TOURNAMENT

WHAT YOU NEED: Tic-Tac-Toe grids from Early Arriver, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have the kids pair up to play Tic-Tac-Toe.
- Whoever LOSES from the pair stays in the tournament to go on to the next round. (Kids can play another game if their first one results in a stalemate.)
- Allow the loser to find another opponent for the next round and play again.
- Continue for subsequent rounds, advancing only the losers each time until you have a final "winner."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Normally in Tic-Tac-Toe, the goal is to win! But in our tournament, losing was the goal. **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we'll hear about an older brother who lost out on something really awesome because he refused to forgive. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

BIBLE STORY

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Father and Older Brother
Luke 15:21-32

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BASIC TRUTH

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* 1. PARTY HATS

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper party hats, markers, and stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out a party hat to each child.
- Encourage the kids to decorate the hat using the stickers and markers.
- As kids finish, let them put on their hats!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The older brother missed out on a super fun party. Why? Because, unlike his father, he refused to forgive. What could we miss out on when we refuse to forgive? (*Pause for responses.*) Refusing to forgive could cause you to miss out on a friendship! One thing that's super important to remember is that NO one is perfect. We all mess up sometimes. We all say things we don't really mean or do things that hurt others. Hopefully when that happens, like in the story Jesus told, the other person apologizes. And in that case, we should offer forgiveness for sure. Remember, **when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you refused to forgive someone as a kid and you missed out. What happened as a result of choosing to stay mad?)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

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PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

* 2. PARTY TIME!

WHAT YOU NEED: Tablecloth; party hats; Bible; treat or toys to share; napkins (optional)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover your Small Group area with the tablecloth.
- Encourage the kids to wear their party hats.
- Set the treats or toys in the center of the tablecloth, but do not allow the kids to touch them yet.
- Talk about the choices the older brother in our story made today.
 - How did the father react when his son returned? (*He forgave him and threw a huge party to celebrate his son's return*)
 - Where was the older brother when the younger son returned? (*Working in the field*)
 - How did the older brother react when he found out that the party was for his younger brother who'd returned home? (*He was angry*)
 - What did the older brother say to the father? (*"All these years I have worked, I've obeyed. You've never thrown me a party."*)
 - Why do you think the older brother was SO mad? Can you relate to this?
 - Why do you think the father celebrated in such a big way?
- Pass out the treats or toys for the kids to enjoy.
- As they finish, collect their hats to be used during the prayer activity.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I can relate to the older brother in this story. He's right; he was the one who had stayed, the one who worked hard and honored his dad. But he missed out. Because he thought it was more important to be right than to forgive, he missed the opportunity to celebrate his brother's return. Sometimes we do the same thing. We want to make a point or prove that we're right and the other person is wrong. But in the end, your friendship is WAY more important than winning an argument. We need to offer forgiveness when someone apologizes and means it. Because **when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

3. MEMORY VERSE BUILDING

WHAT YOU NEED: Large popsicle sticks, a Bible marked at Colossians 3:13, "Memory Verse Phrases" Activity Page, scissors, glue sticks, and zip-top baggies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask for a volunteer to open the Bible to Colossians 3:13 and read it aloud to the group.
- Give each child a set of "Memory Verse Phrases," seven popsicle sticks, and scissors.
- Set the glue sticks in the middle of your small group area.
- Instruct the kids to cut out the phrases and glue each one onto a popsicle stick.
- When finished, encourage kids to stack their sticks any way they choose to "build" the verse.
- Pass out a zip-top baggie to each child so they can take their sticks home.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Forgiveness is important! And we know that's true because God is the ultimate forgiver! This verse is such a great one to remember always. You can take these sticks home and build this verse over and over again as you remember to forgive as God forgives you. Let's choose to forgive and fix the relationships with the people around us, with God's help. Because **when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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Father and Older Brother
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PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: Party hats from earlier

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out the party hats to the kids.
- Close in prayer as the kids hold their party hats.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These hats are a good reminder that **when you don't forgive, you miss out.** But forgiving someone when we've been hurt—even when the other person is clearly sorry—is still hard. Let's pray and ask God to help us forgive so we don't miss out this week.

"Heavenly Father, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, just like the father in this story Jesus told. When we feel like holding onto anger like the older brother, would you please help us choose to forgive instead? We definitely need Your help to do that. We love and trust You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their party hats and popsicle sticks as they talk about choosing to forgive this week so they don't miss out!