

DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
FOUR

MARCH 2020

GRADES
4-5

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 PRETEEN

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BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Lost Son
Luke 15:11-24

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

KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just For Fun
Get Your Head in the Game

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Communication
Prayer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Wonderful" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"What A Beautiful Name" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 6*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Extension
Discussion Questions
Verses to Take with You
Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- Pink marker; one for each small group
- Large sheet of butcher paper; one for each small group
- Tape
- Pipe cleaners; one for each kid
- A bandana or eye mask; one for each small group
- Print the "Draw a Pig Directions" Activity Page

2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Basket or container
 - The container needs to be large enough to be used for a basketball type game where kids will "shoot" the toy pig into it.
- Toy pig
 - The toy pig could be: a stuffed animal, a ball with a pig face drawn on it, pig beach ball, pig stress ball, etc. Kids will use the toy pig in a basketball-type game, so it can't be fragile.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Uninflated balloons; one for each kid

- Pens or markers, preferably ultra-fine tip
- A basket or container
 - The container needs to be large enough to fit about 10 inflated balloons inside.

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Scene Cards" Activity Page; one set for each small group
- Butcher paper
- Markers

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Label a wall in your environment "EAST" and label the opposite wall "WEST."
- Two containers or baskets
- Inflated balloons from the Take a Snapshot Activity
- Bibles
- Markers or pencils
- Print the "4GVN Cards" Activity Page; one for each kid

GETTING READY, CONTINUED

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- The "4GVN Cards" Activity Page from the Verse to Take with You Activity
- Bibles
- Markers or pencils
- Paper

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

Please Forgive Me
Lost Son
Luke 15:11-24



PLAY

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

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, pray that your kids would understand that God loves them so much and forgives them no matter what. Pray that you would be able to regularly model that type of forgiveness to your students.

LIFE APP

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

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, markers, butcher paper, tape, "Draw a Pig Directions" Activity Page, pipe cleaners, bandana or eye mask

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Invite** kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- **Tape** a large piece of butcher paper on the wall.
- Using a pink marker and the "Draw a Pig Directions," **draw** a large pig on the paper. Be sure to omit the pig's tail. As you draw, **encourage** kids to guess what you are drawing.
- **Play** a game of "Pin the Tail on the Pig." To **play**:
 - **Gather** kids to stand about 10 feet from the pig.
 - **Give** kids a pipe cleaner with tape on the end.
 - **Blindfold** kids one at a time, **spin** them around 2-3 times, and **let** them try to tape their tails on the pig in the right location.
 - The kid who tapes the tail closest to the correct spot on the pig wins.
 - While waiting for their turn, kids can bend their pigtails to give them different shapes, e.g. curly.

KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Lost Son
Luke 15:11-24



MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

MEMORY VERSE

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LIFE APP

**Forgiveness—Deciding that
someone who has wronged
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KEY QUESTION

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2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

WHAT YOU NEED: Basket, a toy pig

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Set** up a basket in the room for a basketball-type game. If you want kids to be able to make "backboard" shots, set the basket next to a wall.
- **Explain** kids will play a basketball game similar to HORSE except it is called PIG, and instead of a basketball, kids will be using a pig. To **play:**
 - Kids take turns trying to get the pig into the basket.
 - Once a kid 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."
 - For example: if a kid 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."
 - Kids continue to try to make a basket.
 - **Encourage** them to be silly and go for the "trick" shots.
 - Every time a kid 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 is a pig in our story today) **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear a story that is less about pigs and more about forgiveness.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

BIBLE STORY

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1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

WHAT YOU NEED: Uninflated balloons, thin markers or pens, basket

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Encourage** kids to think of examples of things people do that “wrong each other,” things that might need forgiveness.
 - Examples could include: say mean things, cheat on tests, lie, say things about other people we shouldn't, get angry when we don't get our way, exclude people, forget to do what we say we will, lose our temper, etc.
- **Give** each kid an uninflated balloon and **tell** them to write 1-3 examples on the uninflated balloons.
 - This might be a bit challenging, so **suggest** kids pick out a key word for each example, such as: lie, gossip, anger, mean, ignore, etc.
- **Tell** kids to blow up their balloons and **knot** the stems.
- **Encourage** kids to share their examples with the group.
- **Discuss** the examples.
- **Direct** kids to shoot their balloons into the basket to be used during the Verses to Take with You Activity.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

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LIFE APP

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IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

WHAT YOU NEED: "Scene Cards" Activity Pages, butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids around the large piece of butcher paper.
- **Allow** kids to pick a "Scene Card."
- **Encourage** kids to draw something representing the scene on the butcher paper.
- As a group, **retell** the story using the pictures kids drew. Make sure everyone's picture is included in the story line.
- **Ask:** *Tip: Consider asking the questions while kids are drawing.*
 - The story of the father and his two sons is called a parable. What's a parable? (*a parable is a story used to teach something, Jesus frequently told parables to make His point*)
 - How can we sometimes be like the younger son?
 - How is the father like God? What is Jesus teaching us about God's forgiveness in this parable?
 - **Facilitate** discussion so the kids have the opportunity to tell the story of God's forgiveness. Just like the younger son did things that kept him from having a relationship with his father, we do things that keeps us from having a relationship with God. God sent Jesus to make a way for to fix our relationship with God so we have God's forgiveness and we can be with Him now and forever.
 - **Emphasize** that God's forgiveness is for everyone and God doesn't hold a grudge.

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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

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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What is one way you respond 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?
 - **Encourage** kids to share. **[Make it Personal]** *(Be prepared to share an age-appropriate example of when someone forgave you. Maybe you forgot to meet your friend for lunch like you said you would and your friend didn't hold it against you and simply rescheduled another time to get together. Or you borrowed a tool from a friend and it broke, but your friend didn't make you buy a new one to replace it.)*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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25 MINUTES

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



PLAY

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

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4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

WHAT YOU NEED: a wall in the environment labeled "EAST" and a wall labeled "WEST," two containers or baskets, balloons from the Take a Snapshot Activity, Bibles, "4GVN Cards" Activity Pages, markers or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Look up** and **read** Psalm 103:8-12 together.
- **Ask:**
 - What does this passage tell us about God? (*He is tender, kind, gracious, patient, etc.*)
 - What does this passage say about God's forgiveness? (*God forgives us and doesn't hold a grudge, He removes our sin*)
- **Give** kids a "4GVN Card" and **ask:** What does this card say? (*Forgiven*)
- **Remind** kids because of Jesus, God's forgiveness is for everyone; because of Jesus we are forgiven.
- On the "4GVN Card," **encourage** kids to paraphrase what Psalm 103:8-12 says about God and His forgiveness.
- **Spend** time sharing what kids wrote about Psalm 103.
- **Place** the containers on two opposite ends of the room; one by the "EAST" wall and one by the "WEST" wall.
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Instruct** teams to stand midway between the two containers.
- **Divide** the balloons from the "Take a Snapshot" Activity between the two teams.
- **Explain** that teams will race to put their balloons in the containers first.
To **race:**
 - When you **say** "GO," a kid from each team will race to put a balloon in the EAST container and return to their teams.
 - The next kid from each team then races to put a balloon in the WEST container and returns to his or her team.
 - Kids continue putting balloons in alternating containers.
 - The first team to have moved all their balloons to the EAST and WEST wins.
 - For an extra challenge: to transport the balloons, kids must keep the balloons from touching the ground, but they can't simply hold the balloons—they have to keep them in the air and bat them around toward the goals.

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

BIBLE STORY

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5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "4GVN Cards" from Verses to Take with You, Bibles, pencils or markers, paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Give** kids some quiet time to pray. **Suggest** options for ways to spend this prayer time:
 - Talking silently to God
 - On your "4GVN Card," write God a thank You note
 - Reading Psalm 103:8-12 as a prayer to God
 - Write a prayer with each sentence starting with a letter in the word "FORGIVE."
 - Draw something to represent your prayer
- **Allow** kids to share their prayers with the group if they want to.