

DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
FIVE

MARCH 2020

GRADES
4-5

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 PRETEEN

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HOME

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing
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

KEY QUESTION

What do you lose if
you don't forgive?

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

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

"Every Beat" from *Every Beat*
"Live Your Love" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
"You Give Me Courage" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- "FORGIVE" cups; two sets for each Small Group
 - Each set contains seven cups
 - With the cups upright, write one letter of the word "FORGIVE" on each cup
- Ping pong balls; 14 for each Small Group
- Masking tape

2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Masking tape

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cups; six for every two kids
- Sticky notes
- Markers

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:

- Bibles
- Wrapped candies; one for each kid
- Cotton balls; one for each kid

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 Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cups from the Take a Snapshot Activity
- Sticky notes
- Markers or pencils
- Balloons; one for each kid
- Tables; one for each Small Group
- Bibles
- Index cards; one for each kid

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:

- Cotton balls; one for each kid
- Bibles

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
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

KEY QUESTION

What do you lose if
you don't forgive?

BASIC TRUTH

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



MOVE

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

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

Before kids arrive, take sometime to prepare for small group through prayer, both for your time together as a group and for each student in your group individually. Pray that the concept of forgiveness has been made fresh and new in their minds and hearts this past month.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, two sets of "FORGIVE" cups, 14 ping pong balls, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Invite** kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Create** a line on the floor with masking tape and **tell** teams to stand behind the line.
- **Line up** a set of FORGIVE cups in front of each team, about seven feet from the line.
 - Cups should be set upright and in order so they spell "FORGIVE."
- Each team tries to bounce one ball in each of the cups.
- If a ball misses the cup, kids retrieve it while their teammate takes a turn. There should be a continuous flow of ping pong balls bouncing towards the cups as teams try to be the first team to land a ball in each of the 7 cups.
- To increase the chaos level, more than one teammate can be bouncing a ball at a time.
- *Note: Depending on the skill level required, you may need to **adjust** the distance of each team to the cups.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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



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
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KEY QUESTION

**What do you lose if
you don't forgive?**

BASIC TRUTH

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

2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Tape** two lines on opposite sides of the environment, as far apart as your space will allow.
- **Divide** the group into two teams. Depending on the size of your Small Groups, you can combine Small Groups and do this as a big group activity.
- **Line** up one team behind each of the taped lines. Teams should be standing on opposite sides of the room facing each other.
- **Say** "Go" and a kid from each team run toward each other. Wherever they meet, they play a round of Rock, Paper, Scissors (RPS). To play RPS:
 - Kids make a fist and say, "Rock Paper, Scissors, Shoot."
 - On "Shoot," kids use their hand make a rock (a fist), paper (an open hand with palm facing the ground), or scissors (make a "v" or a "scissor" with their index and middle finger).
 - Rock beats Scissors, Scissors beats Paper, Paper beats Rock.
 - The kid who loses that round goes to the back of his team's line.
 - The winner of the round continues to run towards the opposing team as the next player from the opposing team runs towards the winner.
 - Wherever they meet, the two kids play RPS.
 - The team that crosses their opponent's starting line first wins.
- **Play** several rounds as time allows.
- For a visual, **go to:** <https://yhoo.it/2ObWrY1>

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a fun game. But you know what isn't fun? LOSING! **[Transition]**
Let's head to Large Group to hear about what we can lose if we choose not to forgive."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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

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Older Brother
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**Forgiveness—Deciding that
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KEY QUESTION

**What do you lose if
you don't forgive?**

BASIC TRUTH

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

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

WHAT YOU NEED: Cups, sticky notes, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Pair** kids up.
- **Give** each pair six sticky notes and six cups.
- **Ask:**
 - What can it look like to hold a grudge?
 - What are things people do when they hold a grudge? (*silent treatment, trash talk about people or share things about someone you shouldn't, be angry or be bitter towards someone, post negative stuff on social media, spend time plotting ways to get even, etc.*)
- **Encourage** teams to write each example on a sticky note
- **Discuss** the answers.
- **Tell** teams to stick their notes to their cups.
- The cups will be used in the Take a Verse with You Activity.

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



IMAGINE

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

BIBLE STORY

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KEY QUESTION

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you don't forgive?**

BASIC TRUTH

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

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, wrapped candy, cotton balls

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Review** the story.
- **Ask:**
 - What was the father's response to the younger brother's return?
 - How would you describe the older brother when he found out his father threw a party celebrating the younger son's return? *(If necessary, read Luke 15:28-29. Answers could include: angry, bitter, jealous, ungrateful)*
 - What was the older brother missing out on by choosing to hold onto his negative emotions toward his brother?
 - What was the father's response to his older son? *(Luke 15:31)*
- Even though what his younger brother did was wrong, the older son had a choice to make. The older brother could decide to let go of his anger and bitterness or he could hold on to it and decide his younger brother should pay.
- **Place** a wrapped piece of candy in front of each kid and **give** each kid a cotton ball.
- **Give** kids time to think of something they may be holding against someone. Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly. Maybe someone flattened a tire on their bike or broke their favorite toy. Maybe they are angry at someone for not doing what they said they would do. Or prompt kids to think about how the older brother was holding onto his anger and resentment.
- **Explain** that the cotton ball represents something you're holding against someone.
- **Tell** kids hold on to the cotton ball with both hands and squeeze as tightly as they can.
- While squeezing the cotton ball with both hands, **challenge** kids to unwrap the candy using only their hands.
- **Tell** kids to open their hands so the cotton ball is resting on their palms.
- Just like you cannot grab onto the candy while focusing on squeezing the cotton ball, when you are holding on to grudges and focusing on how you may have been wronged, you could miss out on a lot. *(e.g. friendships, good times with others, joy, a party [like the older brother missed out on], etc.)*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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

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KEY QUESTION

**What do you lose if
you don't forgive?**

BASIC TRUTH

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

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What can it cost you to hold a grudge? For example, what might you miss out on if you decided to hold a grudge and not forgive a friend?
- What if a friend says something unkind to you and they never say they are sorry? Do you still forgive them? Do you only forgive someone if they ask you?
- Is forgiveness always fair? How does it make you feel when it's not fair?
[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share about a time when someone treated you unfairly or when you were mad at someone for how they treated you. Did you forgive them right away? Did it take you time to forgive them? How did you feel when you decided to forgive them? Did you miss out on something because you wanted to make them pay?)

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

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Older Brother
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4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, sticky notes, cups from the Take a Snapshot Activity, balloons, markers/pencils, a table, index cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Pair** kids up again in their teams from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- **Ask:** What could you miss out on if you choose not to forgive someone, to hold a grudge, or to get even with someone who has wronged you?
- **Encourage** kids to write their answers on a sticky note (one answer per note).
- **Discuss** the answers.
- **Tell** kids to stick their notes in a row on a table, close to the edge. (If you don't have a table, use another elevated surface such as a chair. Or use the floor, but avoid "fluffy" carpet.)
- **Instruct** kids to cover the notes on the table with their cups from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- Kids are going to race to knock off the "grudges" to reveal what you "don't want to miss." To race:
 - **Give** each kid an uninflated balloon.
 - When you say "GO," kids blow up their balloon.
 - Pointing the "valve" end at the cups, kids release the air, trying to knock the cups off the table.
 - Kids cannot touch the cups with the balloon itself or with their body.
 - The first team to knock off all the cups wins.
 - For a visual, **go to:** <http://bit.ly/2qy8B4l>
- After playing a couple of rounds, **give** kids a Bible.
- Look up Matthew 22:39 and read it together.
- **Ask:**
 - How can forgiveness show others you love God?
 - How can forgiveness show others God loves them?
 - What opportunities can you miss out on when you choose not to forgive?
- **Tell** kids to write the verse reference, Matthew 22:39 on a card.
- **Encourage** them to write out the verse directly from the Bible, or paraphrase it on the card.
- **Challenge** them to memorize the verse and place their cards somewhere as a reminder that forgiveness is important to God.

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

BIBLE STORY

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Older Brother
Luke 15:21-32

MEMORY VERSE

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5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Cotton balls from "Bible Story Extension" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Remind** kids of the activity from earlier where they held onto cotton balls and couldn't open their candy wrappers.
- **Give** kids a moment to think about a time recently when they held onto a grudge or resentment toward someone for something they did. For those who are still holding grudges, encourage them to begin to let go of them and move toward forgiveness.
 - *Note: Some of your few might have serious situations they're dealing with at home or at school. Some kids might be trying to forgive hurts or wrongs that are much bigger than an annoying sibling or a non-loyal friend. As much as possible, be mindful of those kids in particular and avoid "minimizing" or "simplifying" their situations.*
- **Pray** with the kids:

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, Thank You for Your forgiveness and Your love. We want to show others Your love! God, please give us Your power and Your strength to forgive others. Help us to let go of anything we may be holding against others so we don't miss out on the joy of Your forgiveness. Amen!"