

DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK
FOUR

MARCH 2020

GRADES
K-1

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

TEAM

CEO

Reggie Joiner

DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS STRATEGY

Mike Clear

CREATIVE TEAM

Molly Bell
Elloa Davis
Elizabeth Hansen
Brandon O'Dell
Greg Payne
Phil Pierce
Dan Scott
Mike Tiemann
Jon Williams

WRITERS

Kassandra Finklea
Lauren Jackson
Becky Jarrett
Erin Mashaw
Emily Meredith
Julie Tiemann

EDITORS

Molly Bell
Dana Wilkerson

ORANGE SPECIALIST

Abbey Carr
Amy Fenton
Amy Grisham
Barbara Graves
Terri Jones
Misty Phillips
Stephanie Porter
Jackie Raihl
Annette Stickney
Phil Summers
Courtney Templeton
Gay Tucciarone

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me

The Story of the 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

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven.

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

Early Arrivers
Create a Story

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

"Anything Ever" from *At the Top of My Lungs*
"Never Gonna Be" from *At the Top of My Lungs*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Story Board
Balancing Act
Memory Verse Toss
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
- Print the "Follow the Maze" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Pencils

CREATE A STORY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

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.

* 1. STORY BOARD

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Construction paper; one piece for every two kids
- Crayons
- Tape
- Large piece of butcher paper

2. BALANCING ACT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Painter's tape
 - Before Small Group, tape a straight line and a squiggly line on the floor.

3. MEMORY VERSE TOSS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- Beach ball
 - Write the last sentence of the memory verse on the beach ball with a permanent marker. Make the words large enough so that much of the ball is covered with words, without much blank space.

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Beach ball from the "Memory Verse Toss" activity

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**.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me

The Story of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-24



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. Everyone, no matter who they are or what they've done, needs to be forgiven. Pray that kids would begin to understand this truth today.

LIFE APP

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

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Follow the Maze" Activity Pages, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, greet them by name and invite them to put their offerings in the container.
- After they have settled in, hand out an Activity Page to each child.
- Encourage them to follow the maze to get home.

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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CREATE

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

2. CREATE A STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit around a table or in a circle on the floor.
- Work together to tell a story:
 - Begin the story by saying a few sentences.
 - The child to your right will add a few more sentences.
 - When you say, "Stop," the next child will continue the story.
 - Continue on around the circle.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What a story we created together. It was so fun to see how creative you were and how the story took so many turns! **[Transition]** Let's head to Large Group to hear about a really important story Jesus told."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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CREATE

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

* 1. STORY BOARD

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper, crayons, large piece of butcher paper, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pair up the kids.
- Give each pair a piece of construction paper.
- Assign each pair a part of the story to draw:
 1. The father gave the son all of his inheritance.
 2. The son left home and spent all his money.
 3. The son ended up eating with pigs.
 4. The son decided to go back home. The father saw his son coming home and ran toward him to give him a hug.
 5. The son asked for forgiveness.
- Give kids time to draw their part. Remind them of what happened if needed.
- While kids are drawing, tape the butcher paper on the wall or create space to lay it on the floor.
- Once all of their drawings are finished, call on the group that drew part one.
 - Tell kids to explain their part of their story. You might need to prompt them by asking questions about details from the story and/or things you see in their drawing.
 - Give kids a piece of tape so they can put their drawing on the butcher paper.
- Continue with each pair, as they tape their pictures in order on the butcher paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job working together and putting all of our story pieces together. The son in our story made some bad decisions, but he still came back to his father to ask for forgiveness. What did the father do when he came back? (*He threw a party!*) The story today reminds us that even when we make really big mistakes, **everyone needs to be forgiven.**

"What are some things that kids your age might need to be forgiven for? (*Encourage responses, such as: telling a lie, disobeying my parents, yelling at my brother for messing up a video game, using my sister's stickers without asking, etc.*) Those are the kind of things we all do sometimes, and they're

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TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

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things we need to ask forgiveness for. Some of those things might also be done TO us, and we need to forgive the other person, even if we're angry and even if they don't ask for forgiveness. **Everyone needs to be forgiven."**

[Make It Personal] (Tell about a child-appropriate time when you made the decision to forgive someone even when it was hard. Tell how that grew your relationship with God.)

LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



PLAY

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

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2. BALANCING ACT

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared tape lines on the floor

WHAT YOU DO:

- Kids will take turns walking on the lines and trying to balance without touching the floor where there's no tape.
- After kids have each had a turn, make it harder by challenging them to hop on one foot or jump along the lines.

WHAT YOU SAY

"That was hard balancing on the lines. Sometimes you fell off or made a mistake. You and I make mistakes all the time—sometimes every day—just like the son in our story today made mistakes. Was he forgiven by his dad? *(Pause.)* Was he forgiven by God? *(Pause.)*

"We can also be forgiven when we make mistakes. Can anyone tell me about a time when someone forgave you? *(Encourage kids to share some stories about times someone forgave them. They may need some prompting. Maybe a parent forgave them for yelling mean things or for being disobedient. Or perhaps a friend forgave them when they accidentally broke the friend's toy.)* It's such a great feeling when someone forgives us, isn't it? And it's also a great feeling when we forgive someone else. Let's remember that the next time we need to forgive someone. **Everyone needs to be forgiven**—and that includes you and me!"

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25 MINUTES

HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



MOVE

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

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3. MEMORY VERSE TOSS

WHAT YOU NEED: Beach ball with part of the memory verse written on it, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids look up Colossians 3:13 in their Bibles. Use the tips from Week 1 if needed.
- Say the verse together.
- Then say just the last sentence of the verse together several times.
- Show kids that the sentence they just said is written on the beach ball.
- Play a game with the ball:
 - Toss the ball to one kid, who catches it with both hands.
 - He looks at the word his right thumb is touching (or the word closest to it) and says it aloud. (Assist as needed.)
 - The whole group then says the entire sentence together. When they come to the word the kid said, they shout it and jump as high as they can.
 - If the ball drops, everyone says the Bottom Line: **Everyone needs to be forgiven.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so fun! This verse will help us remember that **everyone needs to be forgiven** because God forgives us! He forgives us when we sin—or do things that go against what His Word tells us to do or not do. And He wants us to forgive others when they do things against us. Can you tell me about a time you forgave someone? Don't say their name—just quickly tell us what happened and how you responded. (Allow kids to share stories as time allows.) Those were some great stories. Let's all remember to forgive others because **everyone needs to be forgiven.**"

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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

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PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: Beach ball from the "Memory Verse Toss" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Roll the ball to kids in the circle and have the kids repeat the Bottom Line: **Everyone needs to be forgiven.**
- Close with the prayer below.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You are so amazing and wonderful. We thank You for forgiving us when we sin against You. Help us to also forgive others when they sin against us because **everyone needs to be forgiven.** We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.

"Tell me one more time: Who needs to be forgiven? **Everyone needs to be forgiven!** That's right. Let's remember that as we go about our week. I'm sure each one of us will need to forgive someone this week. So let's forgive, just as God forgives us."

As adults arrive to pick up encourage kids to challenge their parents to balance on the tape lines.