

FORGIVENESS

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

BOTTOM LINE: Everyone needs to be forgiven.

Read Daniel 9:9

DAY
1

Done Wrong?

Sometimes we need to forgive others and sometimes we need to be forgiven. Think of a recent time that you did something that you needed to ask forgiveness for. Was it something like: not obeying, taking a sibling's toy, or saying something mean to a friend? If you haven't already done so, go ask for forgiveness and tell them what you have been learning about forgiveness this month.

Ask others for forgiveness when you need to.

DAY
2

Sorry, God!

God offers us forgiveness. But it's still nice to ask Him to forgive us. Think back to yesterday and the situation that you needed to ask forgiveness for from a friend. Talk to God and ask Him to forgive you for hurting someone else. You can pray something like this:

"Dear God, Thank you for always forgiving me no matter what. I pray that you will forgive me when I was not kind to my friends or family members. I love you, God. Amen."

Thank God for always forgiving you.

DAY
3

Memory

Grab someone to do this activity with you! Look up this week's verse: **Daniel 9:9**. Write or type this week's Bible verse onto a sheet of paper. Cut the words apart and tape the words to a wall or table. Say the verse out loud, then remove one word. Have your friend say the verse again, seeing if they can remember the missing word. Then, take away another word. Repeat until all of the words are gone and you are saying the verse from memory!

Look for ways you can forgive others because you are forgiven.

DAY
4

"I Will Forgive"

Sometimes we need a little help remembering why and who to forgive. So below are some "I will" statements that we can say to remind us who and why we need to forgive. Practice saying the statements below every time you need to!

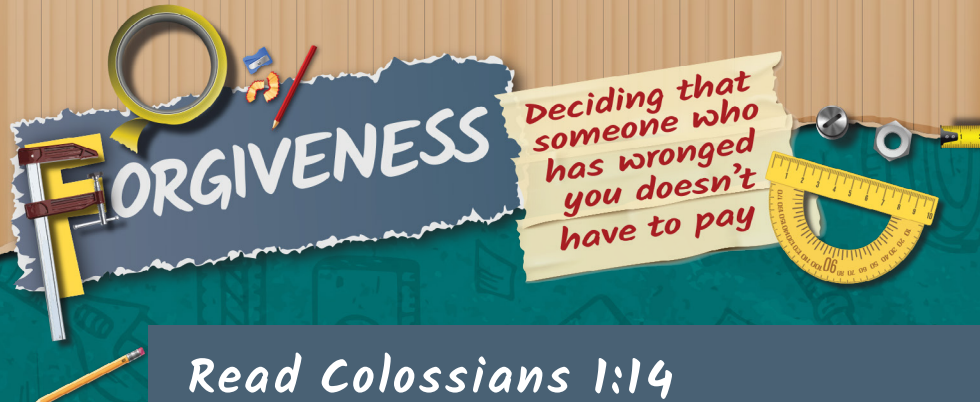
"I will remember Jesus died for me."

"I will forgive others"

"I will ask for forgiveness when I need to."

Know that when we forgive others, it shows that we love them.





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Read Colossians 1:14

DAY 1

This passage talks about who? Yes, Jesus! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to do what no one else could do. He willingly faced the worst punishment of all, death on a cross, for you and for me. Why? So that we could be forgiven.

Grab some masking tape and a piece of paper. Use the masking tape to create a cross in the center of the page. Use a crayon or marker to color the page any way you choose. When finished, remove the tape in the center to reveal the cross. Then, write today's verse inside the cross, filling in the blanks as indicated below.

"Because of what Jesus has done, _____ has been set free. Because of Jesus, all
Your name
my sins have been forgiven." Colossians 1:14

Have you heard this good news before? Do you understand why Jesus chose to give His life so that you could be forgiven? If not, ask your parent or another trusted adult who follows God about what Jesus has done. Pray that God would help you follow Him and trust in Jesus so that you can be forgiven.

Read Romans 3:23

DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper and draw a target on the center. Wad up a few pieces of paper to use as your "darts." Hang up the target and stand several feet away. See if you can hit the target right in the center, standing in the exact same spot, 15 times in a row. Probably pretty difficult, right?

Sin is a little word that causes a lot of big problems. To sin means to miss the mark. Sin isn't just a problem for you, it's a problem for everyone. Imagine if God said, "Hey, if you want to have a relationship with me, then you need to hit the bullseye every single time." That would be like God saying, "If you want to have a relationship with me, you have to be perfect."

Guess what? No one can measure up to God's glory and perfection. But God loves you. He sent Jesus to die on the cross so that you can be forgiven.

Take a look at your dart board. Ask God to help you accept the forgiveness He offers when you miss the mark. Thank Him for sending Jesus so that you could be forgiven.

Read Ephesians 2:4-5

DAY 3

Grab a piece of foil from the kitchen. Crumple it into a ball and then spread it back out on the counter. Can you make it look as shiny and smooth as it did before? Nope! This is kind of how our lives look when we mess up. Remember, everyone messes up. It's not just you. We all look like that crumpled up piece of foil.

God knows that no matter how hard we might try, we can never fix all those mess-ups on our own. **But God LOVES us deeply.** He is full of mercy. God sent Jesus so that our sins, our mess-ups, could be forgiven. His grace, which we cannot earn and do not deserve, has saved us. That's how BIG God's love is for you and for me.

Grab a ball point pen and draw a large heart in the center of your piece of foil. Use the pen to create a cool design inside the heart, creating ridges in the foil. Color in your design with permanent markers. Hang your heart in a place where you'll see it each day.

Tell God thank you for loving you so much that He sent His only Son so that everyone can be forgiven.

Read Acts 10:43

DAY 4

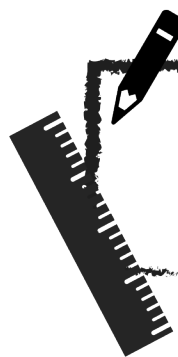
Think about the last time someone hurt you. How did you respond? Did you say something unkind back? Are you still mad?

Do you see the word "all" in today's verse? It comes up twice. First, it talks about how *all* the prophets, (men chosen by God to deliver an important message) tell us about Jesus. And all who believe in Him will be forgiven.

"All" includes the kid you still haven't forgiven. All includes your parents, your teachers, your favorite coach, and your grandparents. All includes the kids no one talks to and the kids everyone wants to hang out with. All includes you. God loves you so much and His forgiveness is SO big that it covers everything.

Everyone needs forgiveness. God sent His only Son, to die and be buried and rise again so that our sin, the mess ups we all make, would no longer separate us from Him. As you pray today, thank God for the forgiveness He offers to everyone. Ask Him to help you choose to forgive, because everyone needs forgiveness.





WHEN HAS SOMEONE FORGIVEN YOU?

DAY 5

It feels awesome to know God has forgiven you, doesn't it? But how about others? Have you ever had to ask for forgiveness from someone else for something you did that hurt them? How did it feel when they forgave you?

Grab a sheet of paper and write your own parable. It could be based on a true story from your own life, or just a modern day re-telling of the story Jesus told. Either way, before you write, think about how you've felt when you've messed up, and how you felt when you were forgiven. Include those emotions in your story.

After you write your story, take some time to share it with your family and then hang it somewhere that reminds all of you how great it feels to be forgiven.

FORGIVENESS

DECIDING THAT SOMEONE
WHO HAS WRONGED YOU
DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY

DAY 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.
(Click on *Fun2Watch!* then *The So & So Show.*)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: _____

2) YOU LEARNED: _____

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: _____

DAY 2

Read Luke 15:11-24

Put a number in the blank beside each of these events, in order according to the story Jesus told in Luke 15. When you're done, go back and read Luke 15:11-24 to see if you got it right.

- ___ The father called for his servants to bring his best robe.
- ___ The son ran out of money.
- ___ The father ran out to him.
- ___ The younger son moved away.
- ___ The younger son asked for his share of the inheritance.
- ___ The son went home.
- ___ The country experienced a famine.
- ___ The father called for a party to celebrate.
- ___ The son got a job feeding pigs.
- ___ The father gave him what he asked.
- ___ The son apologized.
- ___ A man had two sons.
- ___ The son wasted his money living a wild and crazy life.
- ___ The son realized he could ask for his father's forgiveness.

Notice the order of 10, 11 and 12. All it took was for the son to head home to his father for the father to forgive him. He didn't even get out his apology to his father for the way he had treated him and wasted all his father had given him before his father was welcoming him back into his family. His hug said it all to his son: **"You don't owe me anymore."**

Answers: 13, 6, 11, 4, 2, 10, 7, 14, 8, 3, 12, 1, 5, 9

DAY 3

In the story Jesus told as recorded in Luke 15, when the younger son realized he had done something wrong, he went home to make it right. When we realize we have done something that was wrong, we too need to ask for forgiveness.

Think back over the last few weeks. Is there something you did that you know was wrong? Did you hurt someone, or break a rule? Were you dishonest?

The truth is, you are not alone. We have all done things that are wrong, and **everyone needs to be forgiven.** But God decided we didn't have to pay for what we did wrong by sending Jesus. Jesus took on our sin and paid the price for us when He died on the cross. All we have to do is ask forgiveness for our sin, and we are immediately forgiven and made clean!

Have you ever told God you were sorry for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you haven't, and you'd like to, find a parent or adult who you know trusts in Jesus, and ask them to pray with you, telling God you're sorry for the things you've done wrong, and thanking Him for sending Jesus to be your Savior. Whether you decide to put your trust in Jesus today, or you have made that decision in the past, take a minute to pray a prayer of thankfulness too—forgiveness is the most amazing gift we can receive!

DAY 4

Have you asked God to forgive you for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus? Maybe you even did it yesterday! If you did, how cool! And if you aren't ready for that step yet, that's okay too! The good news is that God is always there, waiting, just like the father in the story Jesus told in Luke 15. The son may have wandered from home and messed up, but the father was always there, waiting to welcome him back!

If you have made this decision, take some time today to tell someone about it! Think about someone you know who follows Jesus. They will

be so excited to hear you've decided to trust Him too. Be sure and tell them how it feels to experience forgiveness (really good, right?!).

Also, take a minute to talk about what this forgiveness means going forward. Does this mean you'll never mess up or need to apologize again. (Hint: Nope.) But share with each other how it feels to know that even when you mess up in the future, God is always there, waiting to welcome you back home with forgiveness.

