

Alley SG- March 18th/19th

Bible Story: Older Brother • *Luke 15:21-32*

Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.

Memory Verse: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." *Colossians 3:13, NIV*

Life App: Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

Forgiveness Slapjack

What You Need: "Review Cards," "Forgiveness Cards," and "Blank Cards" Activity Pages (1 set of each per bin) Prize for Winner – Alley Cash

What You Do:

- Shuffle the "Review Cards" and let kids each pick one card. (If you have more cards than kids, pair them up. Give each pair a card and if there are cards leftover, pick a few pairs to get two cards.)
- As a group, review the story using the cards.
- After reviewing the story, shuffle the "Review Cards" with the "Forgiveness Cards" and the "Blank Cards."
- Kids will play a version of the card game "Slapjack" but instead of slapping the jacks, the kids slap any card with the word "forgiveness" on it.
 - To play, kids sit in a circle. Deal the cards to the kids face down until all the cards are dealt.
 - Kids place their cards in a stack, face down, without looking at them.
 - One at a time, kids take a card from their stack and place it face up in the center of the playing area. The next kid then places their top card face up on top of the previous kid's card.
 - Play continues until someone lays down a card with the word "forgiveness" on it. As soon as the word "forgiveness" appears, everyone slaps their hand down on top of the card pile.
 - The first kid to slap the pile of cards wins the round and adds the pile of cards to the bottom of their stack.
 - Play begins again with the kid to the left of the successful slapper. If a kid gets excited and slaps any card other than a "forgiveness" card, he must give each kid a card from his stack. If a kid runs out of cards, he is not automatically out of the game; instead he must carefully watch while the game continues. If he is the first one to slap when a "forgiveness" card appears, he takes the card pile and rejoins the game. The player with the most cards at the end wins.

What You Say:

- How many of you accidentally slapped someone else's hand in this game? If so, did you apologize?
- Why was the older brother upset with his brother even though he didn't wrong him? (*He was focused on himself; jealous; angry*).
- How do you think the story would have ended differently if the older brother forgave? (*Happy, at peace, and had fun at the party*).
- Do you think we are sometimes like the older brother? Why or why not?
- **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**

That's Not Fair!

What You Need: Masking tape (per bin), Scenarios Sheet (per bin)

What You Do:

- Make a line with masking tape on the floor and have the kids stand on it.
- Read a Scenario from the sheet - If kids think the situation is fair, they jump in front of the line. If they think it is unfair, they jump behind the line.
- As you go through the scenarios, ask kids why they thought the situation was fair or unfair.

- After each scenario is discussed, ask: “Is forgiveness about fairness?” One of the goals of this activity is to emphasize that while situations may be unfair, forgiveness is not about being fair; forgiveness is deciding someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay.
- For each scenario, give kids an opportunity to share an example of what they might miss out on by not forgiving.

What You Say:

- What is the difference between forgiveness and fairness? (*Forgiveness fixes; fairness makes even*).
- Knowing what you know about forgiveness now, do you think you could forgive a bully?
- What holds you back from forgiving someone? (*Pride, revenge, lack of trust, etc.*)
- Can you forgive someone who is not sorry? (Yes) Do you have to be friends with someone to forgive them? (No).
- Do you think your missing out on anything because you haven’t forgiven someone?
- **[Bottom Line] when you don’t forgive, you miss out.**

Pray

What You Need: No Supplies

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle and remind the kids that we all need forgiveness in one way or another.
- Ask them if there is someone they need to forgive (no names unless they want to share).
- Choose a kid to pray and ask God to give us the boldness to forgive that person so we don’t miss out on God’s peace.

Extra Activity

Colossians Squares

What You Need: “Dot Matrix” Activity Pages (per child), colored pencils or markers (per bin), Bibles

What You Do:

- Pair kids up and give each pair a matrix and two different colored pencils or markers.
- *Note: It’s important for kids to be using two different colors of marker or pencil, so they can easily know who put down which line and which word.*
- Kids should take turns connecting adjacent dots with either a horizontal or vertical line. The goal is to be the one to form a square by being the one to add the final line to close the square.
- The kid who makes a square by completing the fourth side should write one word of the memory verse in the square. Then he gets another turn to make one more line.
- Whoever forms enough squares to complete the entire memory verse wins. If no one completes the entire verse, the player with the most words of the verse in squares wins.
- Go to: <http://bit.ly/2hxZGZE> for a visual of how the game is played.

What You Say:

- Put today’s verse in your own words, what does it mean?
- How is God’s forgiveness for us connected to us forgiving others? (*God’s forgiveness gives us the strength we need to forgive others*).
- What do you think grievance means? (*It’s when someone does something unfair to you and you feel wronged*).
- Do we have to be friends with people who annoy us? (No) Do we still have to care for them? (yes).
- **[Bottom Line] when you don’t forgive, you miss out.**