

CITY SG- March 4th/5th

Bible Story: Lost Sheep • *Luke 15:1-7*

Bottom Line: God forgives you.

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.

Origami Sheep

What You Need: blank white paper , markers, origami sheep craft instructions

What You Do:

- Pass out a piece of paper to each child
- Take the paper instructions out so that each child can see one
- Walk the kids through creating an origami sheep
- Tell them to hang the sheep somewhere to remind them that God loves them and wants a relationship with them

What You Say:

- Who has seen a sheep before? What happened?
- Jesus told a story about a shepherd who lost his sheep. How many sheep did he have? (100)
- Why do you think he left his 99 sheep behind to find the one sheep that was lost? (*He cares about us*).
- What does this story tell us about God? (*He will always want a relationship with us; even when we mess up, He is always willing to forgive us*)
- How do we get this forgiveness? (*By asking for it; ABCs of faith*).
- **[Bottom Line] God forgives you.**

No, No, No, Yes

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Select one child to be “It.”
- Play “Duck, Duck, Goose” but replace the words with “no” and “yes.”
 - The kid who is It will walk around the circle lightly tapping each kid on the head as he says, “no, no, no, YES!”
 - When he says, “Yes!” the kid he selects must jump up and chase him around the circle.
 - The goal is to try to tag the kid who is It before he makes it back to the open seat.
 - If the It kid gets tagged, the kid who tagged him gets to go back to her seat and It remains It for another round.
- Repeat for a few more rounds as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

- Were you nervous as your head was tapped, wondering if you’d be picked next?

- Have you ever felt nervous that God was angry and would not forgive you for something you did wrong? Why or why not? How does today's story teach us the opposite?
- How many times is God willing to forgive us? (*infinite amount of times*) What does Jesus want us to do to get God's forgiveness? (*Ask for it*).
- Now that we have God's forgiveness, do we continue to do the same things over again? (*No*) What do we do instead? (*We follow God by reading the Bible, listening to our parents, etc.*)
- **[Bottom Line] God forgives you.**

Pray

What You Need: No Supplies

What You Do:

- Have the kids circle up and ask them if they would like prayer for anything they might need God's forgiveness for.
 - *Remind the kids that they don't want to share what it is with others they can say "unspoken" instead. That way we can pray for it, but they don't have to say anything.*
- As they bow their heads, remind them to forgive others this week because **[Bottom Line] God forgives you.**

What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, You are an awesome God. Thank You for loving us no matter what. It doesn't matter if we mess up a little or a lot. We know that You will forgive us. Thank You for offering forgiveness not just some of the time, but all of the time. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Extra Activity

Where's the Sheep?

What You Need: sheep memory verse cards, 4 Sheep bags per bin, 1 lost sheep bag per bin, Bibles

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible and look up the memory verse. Read the verse together a couple of times. (see below for instructions for how to teach the kids to look up a verse)
- Have the kids form 3 or 4 groups.
- Before handing each team their "Bag of Sheep," remove one "Sheep Verse Card" (at random) from each bag and place the card in the "Lost Sheep" Bag.
- Explain that each bag is missing one sheep and teams need to figure out which sheep is missing and go find it among the "Lost Sheep."
- Dump out the bag containing the "Lost Sheep."
- The first team to find their correct "lost sheep" and put the memory verse in the correct order wins.

Finding verses: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Colossians starts with the letters C-O. When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 13 in chapter 3.

“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*

What You Say:

- What words do you see that pop out in this sentence?
- What do you think it means to bear with someone? (*To put up with or to be patient*). What are some things that we are suppose to be patient with other people with?
- What reason does this verse give for us to forgive others? (*The Lord forgave us*).
- What is a way this week we can remember to ask for God’s forgiveness when we mess up?
- **[Bottom Line] God forgives you!**