

CITY SG- March 11th/12th

Bible Story: Lost Son • *Luke 15:11-24*

Bottom Line: Everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.

Memory Verse: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. 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.

Where is my Son?

What You Need: Action figure

What You Do:

- Have the kids stand around in a circle with one kid in the center. (If there are not enough kids have them sit on one side with the guesser on the other side).
- The person guessing will close their eyes and count to ten while the rest of the kids will pass an action figure behind their backs.
- The person guessing can ask anyone if they think they have their son. (each kid gets five guesses).
- If the kid picks the person who is holding the Son they can pick the next guesser, if not, the teacher can pick the next guesser.

What You Say:

- How would you explain today’s story to a friend?
- What does “hitting rock bottom,” mean? (*You are at the lowest of the low*).
- What did the father do when he realized his Son was coming home? (*Ran to him and threw him a party*).
- What do we have to do gain God’s forgiveness? (*Ask and choose to follow God*).
- **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.**

Forgiveness Pictionary

What You Need: White board, dry erase marker, eraser or paper towel, a piece of paper

What You Do:

- Grab the piece of paper and a pen/pencil. Ask the kids to quickly name some things they might get in trouble for and need forgiveness and write them down.
- Choose one kid to draw something on the whiteboard he or she might get in trouble for and need forgiveness for. She can draw an object, a situation, a place, etc.
- Set a timer for 60 seconds, and when time is up, let the kids guess the scenario. The person who most closely guesses the object or situation gets to draw next. (If a kid has already had a turn, he can pick someone else who hasn’t had a turn yet.)
- If a kid gets stumped and can’t think of a scenario, select one from the list the group made and whisper it to him.

What You Say:

- Do you think there are perfect people or do we all mess up sometimes?
- What does God do about our mess-ups? (*He forgives us*).

- Is it forgiveness if I say I am sorry, and on purpose, do it again?
- What are we suppose to do after God forgives us? (*We choose to follow God and we get to go to heaven*).
- **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.**

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Ask them to think about something from this past week that they need to be forgiven for.
- Give them a few minutes to pray silently on their own, asking God to forgive them.
- Then close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, You are an awesome, loving God. We believe that when we mess up, You offer forgiveness. And we know we need it because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** Thank You for hearing our prayers and for loving us enough to forgive us when we ask You to. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Extra Activity

Erase Away Verse

What You Need: White board, dry erase marker, an eraser or paper towel

What You Do:

- Look up and review Colossians 3:13.
- Write the words of the verse in large block letters on the dry erase board and read it aloud with the kids.
- Flip the board toward you where the kids can't see it and quickly erase two words from the verse.
- Turn the board toward the kids and see if they can recite the verse again, including the words that are "lost."
- Repeat the process, removing two words at a time and saying the verse together until you have only five words left.

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 reason does this verse give for us to forgive others? (*Jesus forgave us first*).
- How do we show Jesus' forgiveness to others? (*Inviting them to church, not getting revenge on them*).
- **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.**