

# CITY SG- March 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>

**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.

## Story Comic

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Bible Story Comics" Activity Pages (1 set for 4 kids; per small group), pencils, markers or crayons

### **What You Do:**

- Either let kids group themselves into four even groups or assign them into four groups. Give each group a "Comic Strip" Activity Page.
- Review what happened in today's Bible story in each of the four scenes:
  - Son returns, father tells everyone to set up a party for his lost son
  - Older brother comes in from the field, hears the commotion, and a servant explains that it's a party for his younger brother who has returned.
  - Older brother confronts the dad, who reminds him that his lost brother has been found and that the occasion calls for a celebration.
  - Older brother misses out on the party.
- Instruct kids to work together to draw pictures inside each box to depict the particular scenes from the story, using the titles in each box as a guide. (have two draw and two color in the drawings).
- After they are done, have them show their comic strips to the rest of the group.

### **What You Say:**

- What do you think the younger brother's party looked like?
- Why did the older brother refuse to come to the party? (*he was thinking about himself; jealous; angry*).
- How do you think the story would have ended differently if the older brother forgave? (*Happy, at peace, and had fun*).
- What will we miss out on if we don't ask for forgiveness? (*peace, friendships, joy, fun*).
- **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**

## Chutes and Ladders

**What You Need:** "Chutes and ladders" board (1 per bin), a die (per bin), Token pieces (6 per bin), "Game Scenario" Cards (1 per bin)

### **What You Do:**

- Set up the board and have every kid pick a piece.
  - The first kid will roll the die and move that number of spaces. You will then read a scenario card and follow it accordingly (moving forward or backward depending on what the card says).
  - If, after reading the scenario and moving that number of spots, a kid lands on a ladder, she may climb up the ladder. If she lands on a chute, she must slide down.
  - If you have more than six kids, have them team up.
  - Play until there is a winner(s) and then discuss.

### **What You Say:**

- Were you upset when you had to go back? Did this game seem fair?
- Is there a difference between fairness and forgiveness?
- Can you forgive someone like a bully for hurting you? (*Yes, you don't have to be their friend*).
- What holds you back from forgiving others (*Lack of trust; pride; revenge*)

- What would happen if you forgave them? (*You could be friends again, you will have peace*).
- **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out."**

## **Pray**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### **What You Do:**

- Pair kids up.
- Encourage the kids to discuss the following question with their partner: Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Give the kids some time to pray for each other. Close in prayer for the whole group.

### **What You Say:**

"God, thanks for sending Jesus to show us exactly who you are. Thank You for the stories He told like this one to teach us such an important lesson. We don't want to be like the older brother who refused to forgive and missed out. Help us to forgive when others ask us to so that we don't miss out on everything You have for us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

## **Extra Activity**

### **Memory Verse Toss**

**What You Need:** Bibles, small foam ball or beanbag (1 per bin), paper (24 per small group), pen or pencil

### **What You Do:**

- Gather the kids to sit in a circle.
- Review Colossians 3:13 together. Repeat the verse several times.
- Write the words of the verse on a piece of paper in large block letters and place the page in the center of your small group area.
- Encourage the kids to toss the ball/beanbag from person to person in any way they want to, as each kid says the next word in the verse. Time the kids to see how long it takes them to complete the verse, including the reference.
- See if the kids can come up with a way to beat their time on the next round. (Hint: It's faster if they toss the ball around the circle, neighbor to neighbor, instead of tossing it across the circle.)

### **What You Say:**

- How would you explain this story to a friend?
- How did God forgive us? (*He sent Jesus on our behalf to die for our sins*).
- How can we forgive others? (*God gives us the strength we need to forgive others*).
- What do you think grievances 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.**