

Alley Rundown-March 28th-29th, 2020

Bible Story: I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Older Brother) • Luke 15:21-32

Key Question: What do you lose if you don't forgive?

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)

CONNECT TIME: March Madness Mix-Up

Supplies Needed: 2 Sets of FORGIVE “Hoops” and 2 Buckets of Ping Pong Balls (per Campus)

How to Play:

- **Divide** your group into 2 teams. Boys vs Girls or 4th vs 5th Grade.
- **Give** each team a bucket of ping pong balls.
- **Line Up** the F-O-R-G-I-V-E Hoops in order for each team, on your Small Groups Table.
- **Line Up** teams behind a set line. A fair distance away from the hoops.

At your “GO!”, teams will race to be the first team to make a basket into all the letters in “FORGIVE”, by alternating players throughout the line (one at a time). Play a few rounds as time allows.

PROMO: Camp Manitoqua (4th Graders) and CIY Mix (5th Graders)

“Hey 4th Graders! This is your last year to attend Camp Manitoqua. You don’t want to miss this chance to make new friends, and connect with God. Take a look at this!

CG: Camp Manitoqua Video

And finally, for all you 5th Graders, this is your chance to go to CIY Mix! Take a look!

CG: CIY Mix Video

All the information you’ll need is on these postcards (*show postcards*). Make sure you grab one on your way out today!”

Begin Rundown...

“Welcome, everybody! It’s great to hang out with all of you. You all look prepared to have fun and maybe even learn something along the way. Looks like everybody dressed in some sweet duds, rocking some clean kicks, and took the time to shave. (*beat*) Just kidding about shaving, but seriously, you came prepared.”

Tell a personal story about a time you were not prepared and missed out on something important. Use the following as a template for your own story or as a hypothetical situation.

“I remember this one time my sister wasn’t prepared. I remember the day well because it was the first Saturday of spring break, and our neighbors were throwing a massive block party to celebrate. The pool was open. Hamburgers and homemade fries on the menu. Yard games, a Mario Cart tournament, and even an outdoor movie. To top it off, there was going to be an ice cream sundae buffet. Literally every single person we knew was going to the party. Missing it was NOT an option.”

“But before we could go, I had some work to do. My parents made it clear—finish all the yard work first. Unfortunately, our yard was pretty huge. I got an early start on the push mowing, weed eating, and edging. By

lunch, I was done and ready to party. My sister opted to wake up late and postpone her riding mower duties until closer to lunch. As a result, she started getting ready for the party a little bit later than she needed. My sister was a teenager and liked to dress up all fancy. I'm talking curlers in her hair using cans—yes, CANS—of hairspray. She took the time to put on mascara, bronzing powder, eyeliner, a bold lip color, and a few other products. All that for a POOL PARTY! I'm not sure what she was thinking. By the time we were supposed to head to the party, she was unprepared."

"My parents let me go without her. And let me confirm what you're probably asking . . . the party was amazing! Easily, it was the party of the year! Just as expected, everybody was there . . . everybody except my sister. It wasn't until everybody started to leave that she showed up. Her friends were gone, the ice cream was melted, awards had been handed out, and all the inflatables were taken out of the pool. My sister missed the party. She was so disappointed. She never intended to miss out."

"Have you ever missed out on something important because you weren't prepared or showed up late? It could have been a big dance recital practice, a birthday party, or a really cool field trip. When this happens, it's the worst because we know we don't get to fully experience a cool event."

"What if we look at this another way? What if it isn't an event that we will miss out on? Could we miss out on something great because we can't let go of how we feel about someone? What if your refusal to apologize to your mom after a big fight causes you to miss out on family game night? You never miss family game night. What if a big disagreement while working on your group project causes you to miss out on completing the project? You really care about your grades. What if your refusal to forgive that friend who called you names caused you to miss out on new friends in the future for fear they will treat you the same?"

"It's important to think about questions like this. That's why we come here and discover how to make the wise choice in situations like these. We can learn a lot from seeing how Jesus talked about these sorts of moments. If you were here last week, you'll remember how we looked at a parable that Jesus told about a younger son who really hurt his father's feeling. Today, we see how his older brother responded to all of this. Let's take a look at this week's episode for more!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:00)

"Many of you have heard this story before. Often times in church, we focus our attention on how the father welcomed the younger son back to their home with love and forgiveness. It is a picture of the love and forgiveness God offers all of us regardless of our mistakes. However, we do not always focus on the older son in the story. He had every right to be angry at his younger brother. His brother had disrespected his father and wasted his inheritance."

"Jesus didn't say whether or not the older brother listened to his father. We don't know if he decided to forgive his brother and join the celebration. But we do know that if he stayed outside, he missed out on many good things, like fun at the party and his family being reunited. Not to mention missing out on a good relationship with his dad and his younger brother!"

"We have the choice to forgive. It should not be something we 'have to do.' Rather, it is something we get to do that comes from the heart. God has made it clear that He desires for all of us to experience the joy of forgiveness. In the process of letting go, we can gain so much including the chance for us to repair our relationships with each other."

"You have a lot to gain when you forgive others. As we head to small groups, think about it like this."

CG: Key Question Slide

"What do you lose if you don't forgive? What's at stake if you choose to hold on to your hurt? What will you miss out on? If you're having trouble thinking of some ideas, don't worry. You'll have a chance to talk more about this in Small Group. But it really is important to consider this question so you can recognize what you are giving up when you don't forgive. It might completely change your perspective on the situation. Before we head

to groups, let's pray and thank God for forgiving us and ask Him to help us forgive the people in our life. Let's pray."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, lead offering and worship experience, then dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor New Lenox: Daniel Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

"Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at (your campus), we give our offering to help support (your campus child) in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin (point children to location of bin). If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week.

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

CG: Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)

Supplies Needed: Index Cards, Pens, and Prayer Request and Praise Report Bags

NOTE: Students will fill out their Prayer Requests and Praise Reports.

Dismiss to Small Groups