

Dear Parents,

Below are some of the activities you can do with your kids after you all watch the Bible Story Video of the week. Taking sometime with your kids to complete these activities will help reinforce the memory verse, bottom line, Bible Story and assist you in connecting the Parent Cue throughout the week. Please adjust these activities to fit your area and number of people. Have Fun!

1. A PROPer Review

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bible, bag of plastic coins, backpack, stuffed pig, robe or piece of fabric

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Luke 15:11-24.
- Select one kid to play the role of the son and one kid to play the role of the father from today's Bible story.
- Let the rest of the kids pick a partner, and pass out one of the props to each pair to help retell the story.
- Make sure each pair understands how their prop relates to the story.
- Read the plot points below from the story as pairs use their props to act it out.
 - The younger of two sons asked his father for his share of the inheritance.
 - The father gave the money to his son.
 - The son packed up and left home for a faraway country.
 - There, the son wasted all his money.
 - The son became so hungry, he took a job caring for pigs.
 - The son decided to return home and beg to be let back in as a servant.
 - The father ran to meet him, gave him a hug, and gave him the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his feet.
 - The father threw a huge party to welcome his son home.

What You Say:

"Why do you think Jesus told this story? How does our heavenly Father act like the earthly father in this story? (*Pause for kids to respond and discuss.*) The father in this story Jesus told had every right to be angry. While his father was still living, the son had asked for his inheritance, which is something that is only given when someone dies! And what did the son do with that hard-earned money? He wasted it. The father could have refused to see him or, at the very least, let him come back only as a servant. But what did he do? The father ran to him, hugged him, and forgave him. He was so happy to see him that he threw a big party to celebrate his return.

[Bottom Line] "Everyone needs to be forgiven. The good news for us is that God LOVES each one of us. He loves us SO much that He sent Jesus, His only Son. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, the stuff that separates us from God. Jesus made a way for

EVERYONE to be forgiven! When we believe or trust in Jesus so that we can be forgiven, we can have a friendship with God forever!”

[Make It Personal] (Tell your few about when you first understood that God sent Jesus so that everyone—including you—could be forgiven.)

2. Giving Hearts

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Three paper heart cutouts

What You Do:

- Gather your group to sit in a circle.
- Select three volunteers to stand outside the circle.
- Give each of those volunteers a heart.
- Explain to the group that these volunteers will be your “Givers.”
- Instruct the rest of the group sitting on the floor to hold up one hand and close their eyes.
- While their eyes closed, the Givers will quietly hand out their hearts to three kids of their choosing and return to stand next to you.
- Once all three volunteers return, have the kids open their eyes and let the three with hearts guess who they think gave them the heart.
- If the guesser is correct, they switch places with the Giver. If incorrect, they stay in the circle and that Giver may reveal himself and stay in that position for the next round.
- Play several rounds, allowing as many kids to be the Givers as possible.

What You Say:

“In this game, you had to guess the Giver. What’s the key word in the middle of the word ‘forgiveness’? Give! How is forgiveness like a gift? When you forgive someone, it’s like offering a gift the other person doesn’t deserve. Tell me: who needs forgiveness? Yes! **[Bottom Line]** **Everyone needs to be forgiven.** Who always forgives? God does! God sent His only Son, Jesus, so that everyone that believes in Him could be forgiven!”

3. Verse Hideaway

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, paper scraps, and pens

What You Do:

- Instruct two kids to look up Colossians 3:13 and read it aloud to the group.
- As they are reading, write out the verse on the paper scraps—two or three words per scrap of paper. Count the paper scraps.
- When you finish, fold the papers in half and ask the kids to cover their eyes as you hide them around your Small Group area.
- Once all the words are hidden, challenge your kids to find all of the paper scraps and put the verse in order.
- Review their work by repeating the verse together as a group.

What You Say:

“One BIG truth about forgiveness is that everyone needs it! We all mess up. When we do, we can be sure that God will ALWAYS forgive us. Our verse for this month reminds us to forgive because God has forgiven us. If you find yourself refusing to forgive this week, ask God to help you remember that **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**”

Discussion Questions

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What is one way you respond when you've done something wrong?
- When has someone forgiven you? **Encourage** kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?
 - **Encourage** kids to share. **[Make it Personal]** *(Be prepared to share an age-appropriate example of when someone forgave you. Maybe you forgot to meet your friend for lunch like you said you would and your friend didn't hold it against you and simply rescheduled another time to get together. Or you borrowed a tool from a friend and it broke, but your friend didn't make you buy a new one to replace it.)*

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Deflated balloon

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a tight circle and ask them if there is anyone they need to forgive this week. (Instruct kids to think about this silently and keep their answers in their minds without saying names aloud.)
- Blow up the balloon with air and hold the end closed.
- Let the air out as you use the dialogue below to talk about why forgiveness is important.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help your group let it go and choose to forgive.

What You Say:

“What might happen if I kept on blowing up this balloon? *(Pause.)* Yes, it will pop! This balloon is like us when we refuse to forgive and choose instead to stay mad. When we choose to let go of our anger, remembering that ***[Bottom Line]*** **everyone needs to be forgiven**, *(let the air out of the balloon)* then everyone wins! Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose forgiveness this week for everyone!

“God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We don’t want to stay angry and blow up and do something unkind. Help us to let it go and choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”