

## BIBLE STORY

**Please Forgive Me**  
The Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-24

## MEMORY VERSE

*Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.*  
Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)

## LIFE APP

**Forgiveness**  
Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

## BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven.

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

## Activity: 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:**

- 1) Instruct two kids to look up Colossians 3:13 and read it aloud to the group.
- 2) As they are reading, write out the verse on the paper scraps—two or three words per scrap of paper. Count the paper scraps.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Once all the words are hidden, challenge your kids to find all of the paper scraps and put the verse in order.
- 5) 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.**”

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## Gospel Moment

God is just like the father in the story Jesus told. And all of us are like the younger son. We all make bad choices and run from our father sometimes. But when we come to our senses, we remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.** We remember that we can always come back to Him and find His perfect love and forgiveness. He's always waiting to forgive us when we mess up."

"God has had a rescue plan for all of us since the very beginning—ever since Adam and Eve first sinned in the garden. When the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior. And Jesus carried out God's plan by taking the punishment for the things we do that are wrong. All you have to do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to die for YOUR sins. And your sins—every single one—will be forgiven. God offers us forgiveness once and for all because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Everyone needs to be forgiven. That's why Jesus died for us. Anytime you mess up, you don't ever have to wonder if God will forgive you. You know He will! All you have to do is ask. You can come back to Him and find His love and forgiveness every time

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- 2) What did the father do when the son came back?
- 3) How does our heavenly Father act like the earthly father in this story?

## Prayer

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.