

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

KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Activity: Take a Snapshot

[Talk about God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Uninflated balloons, thin markers or pens, basket

What You Do:

- 1) **Encourage** kids to think of examples of things people do that “wrong each other,” things that might need forgiveness.
 - Examples could include: say mean things, cheat on tests, lie, say things about other people we shouldn't, get angry when we don't get our way, exclude people, forget to do what we say we will, lose our temper, etc.
- 2) **Give** each kid an uninflated balloon and **tell** them to write 1-3 examples on the uninflated balloons.
 - This might be a bit challenging, so **suggest** kids pick out a key word for each example, such as: lie, gossip, anger, mean, ignore, etc.
- 3) **Tell** kids to blow up their balloons and **knot** the stems.
- 4) **Encourage** kids to share their examples with the group.
- 5) **Discuss** the examples.
- 6) **Direct** kids to shoot their balloons into the basket to be used during the Verses to Take with You Activity.

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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) What is one way you respond when you've done something wrong?
- 2) When has someone forgiven you? **Encourage** kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- 3) What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?
 - o **Encourage** kids to share. **[Make it Personal]** (Be prepared to share an age-appropriate example of when someone forgave you.)

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.