

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing
Father and Older Brother
Luke 15:21-32

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 (NIV)

LIFE APP

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

BOTTOM LINE

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Activity: Blocking the Fun

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing

What You Need: Large stackable items such as Mega Bloks®, LEGO® blocks, or books

What You Do:

- Set out your stackable items and invite the kids to pair up.
- One partner will hold their arms out while the other partner stacks blocks onto their arms. Stack the blocks not too heavy, but heavy enough to where it is a little tricky to move.
- Play some music and tell the kids holding blocks to try and dance.
- Give them a few minutes to try and dance holding the blocks.
- Switch partners and give them a chance to stack the blocks and dance.

What You Say

“It is kinda tricky to hold the blocks and dance at the same time, right? In our story today, the older brother couldn't celebrate forgiveness because he was too busy holding things against his younger brother. It is just like the older brother was holding lots of heavy blocks, so they got in the way of him celebrating! When we choose to forgive others, it is like dropping all of this heavy weight. When we choose not to forgive, the heavy stuff keeps us from celebrating or simply having a good day.”

“Let's think about some times this might happen to us. Maybe you're so mad that your little brother tore up your favorite book that you scream at him, get in trouble with your parents, and miss out on a play date with your best friend. Or maybe you're so upset that your mom forgot she had a meeting when she had promised you would have family movie night tonight, and you spend the whole evening pouting and thinking mean thoughts about her instead of simply enjoying spending time with the rest of your family. Or what if you don't get that really expensive gift you wanted for your birthday, so you refuse to play with the toys you DID get and won't talk to anyone at your party? Remember that **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**”

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Gospel Moment

We learned so much this month about forgiveness. It is important for us to ask for forgiveness, forgive others, and celebrate forgiveness. You know, we can't have any real relationships without forgiveness. We ALL mess up. We let each other down. We do things that hurt each other's feelings. So, we HAVE to forgive! That's how we make our relationships stronger. That's how we make things right with our friends and our family members, too.

From the beginning, God had a plan to fix our relationship with Him. That's why He sent Jesus—to be our Savior. He wants us to fix our relationships with each other, too. So be ready to forgive. Don't hold things against people. If you do, you'll miss out on that relationship. You'll miss how good it COULD be.

[Bottom Line] “When you don't forgive, you miss out.

Discussion Questions

- 1) How did the father react when his son returned?
- 2) Where was the older brother when the younger son returned?
- 3) How did the older brother react when he found out that the party was for his younger brother who'd returned home?
- 4) What did the older brother say to the father?
- 5) Why do you think the older brother was SO mad? Can you relate to this?
- 6) Why do you think the father celebrated in such a big way?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, just like the father in this story Jesus told. When we feel like holding onto anger like the older brother, would you please help us choose to forgive instead? We definitely need Your help to do that. We love and trust You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.