



TRINITY
GRACE
CHURCH

ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY GUIDE

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

INTRODUCTION

In Luke 15:21-32, we pick up the story of the Lost Son we started last week. His father and older brother each responded to the Prodigal Son differently. The Father welcomed him home with open arms and threw a giant party for him. The Older Brother chose not to forgive and become angry with his brother. He not only missed out on a party, but also missed out on rebuilding a relationship with his brother.

PAGE	RESOURCE	NOTES
2	God Time	Weekly Activities for Kids
3	The Parent Cue	Inspiration for Parents.
4	Activity Page & Discussion Questions	Family Play Ideas & Conversations Starters

BIBLE STORY

Father & 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 NIRV

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 should treat others the way I wanted to be treated.

WHAT DO YOU LOSE IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE?

DAY 5

What is your dream party? Who would you invite? Where would it be? What would you do? How long would it last?

Did you create a pretty epic party in your mind? Now imagine that party is happening, but the only way you can go is if you forgive someone who hurt you. That may seem like a strange deal, but it's the situation the older brother found himself in when his father chose to not only forgive, but to celebrate his younger brother when he returned after really messing up.

In real life, you may not miss out on a party if you don't forgive someone (although you might!), but you can certainly miss out on some great things if you don't forgive. You might miss out on a great friendship. You might have your day or even week ruined because you're too caught up in your anger. You might even miss a great opportunity God has for you to experience something really cool, all because you're too caught up in the past.

Go in the bathroom with a dry erase marker and draw a party hat on your head in the bathroom mirror. As you go throughout your week, think about that epic party and how you don't want to miss it because you chose not to forgive!

FORGIVENESS

DECIDING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS WRONGED YOU DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY

DAY 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on *Fun2Watch!* then *The So & So Show.*)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: _____

2) YOU LEARNED: _____

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: _____

DAY 2

Read Luke 15:21-32

As you read Luke 15:21-32, draw an emoji (either in your Bible or on a sheet of paper) that you think represents that sentence or paragraph. (Like, besides verse 21, you might draw a sad emoji, but then beside verse 22-24, you might draw a happy face and a party hat emoji)

There were a lot of emotions in the story Jesus told, weren't there? Everything from happy to sad to angry and even jealous. And if the older brother decided not to forgive, he was missing out on all the . . .



DAY 3

When you don't forgive someone, it's like you're holding on to the hurt and pain they caused you. And when you do that, it's impossible to have a good relationship with that person because you're too busy holding on to anger.

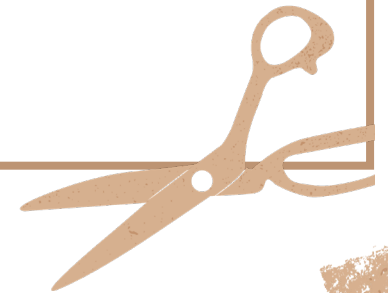
Read the prayer below, filling in your own words in the blanks. Start out your prayer with your fists clenched tight, but as you pray, slowly release your hands and relax. By the time you're done praying, your hands should be turned over and open, palms to the sky, releasing the person you've forgiven.

Dear God, I know I need to forgive _____ for _____ . It really made me mad that they did that, but I don't want to be mad anymore. I don't want to hold on to anger. I want to release my anger and instead choose forgiveness. I have decided that _____ doesn't have to pay, even though they hurt me. I release them and choose forgiveness instead. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen."

DAY 4

Yesterday, you ended your prayer of forgiveness with your palms open and facing upward, instead of clenched tight in anger. Now go take those open hands and use them to either high-five or hug the friend or family member you've chosen to forgive. Think about how you couldn't do that if you still had your fists clenched tight in anger. By releasing them and choosing forgiveness, you won't miss out on this relationship that means a lot to you!

After you hug or high-five, take a minute to tell your friend or family member something you appreciate about them—one or two reasons that you're glad that you're family or friends. Just think: if you didn't forgive, you'd miss out on that special trait or gift that person brings to your life!





WEEK FIVE

FATHER AND OLDER BROTHER • LUKE 15:21-32



ASK THIS:

WHAT DO YOU LOSE IF
YOU DON'T FORGIVE?

REMEMBER
THIS:

"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



DO THIS:



It's true that forgiveness is hard. But forgiving someone isn't just about them, it's about you, too! When you forgive, you can have peace. Forgiveness sets both you and the other person free. Are you missing out on something right now that you could change through forgiveness? Pray that God would show you any place in your life where you're holding onto anger and help you forgive.

FORGIVENESS:

DECIDING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS
WRONGED YOU DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY

PARENTING ISN'T A FORMULA

By Tim Walker

I'm not going to pretend that this parenting thing is easy. That if you do all the right things, everything works out great. Because people don't work that way. Relationships don't work that way. If you combine A+B, you don't always get C. That's the way algebra works, not parenting.

Sometimes parenting means walking through some smelly, ugly stuff. Sometimes you lie awake in bed, pleading with God to protect, to change, to stir the heart of your kid. Sometimes you grieve for the child you once knew. Or the relationship you once shared.

Because as much as we talk about fighting for the heart, and about pursuing a relationship with your kid, sometimes that relationship is one-sided. You're going to give and get nothing in return. You're going to love and not receive love back. You're going to hurt. For some, it lasts for a season. A result of hormones and uncertainty. For others, it last years.

But you fight for, not with your child. You fight with prayer asking Him to pursue your child as much as He pursued you. You fight by holding tight to God's Word, the Bible. You fight with truth. You remind them who they are. Who God made them to be.

Sometimes I read articles and blogs and I think, "You just don't get it. You make parenting sound so easy, but it's not." Parenting isn't physically exhausting as your child gets older. But it sure is emotionally.

There are all kinds of emotions. Fear. Anger. Frustration. And sometimes all of that is in the course of one exchange when they walk in the door. It's learning to let go, and hold on. And not being sure which is which.

Being a dad has given me perspective to the Father heart of God. How He loves us, even when we hurt Him. Reject Him. Why? Because we're His.

Parenting isn't always filled with shiny, happy people holding hands. It's not formulaic, always resulting in the ideal result. But I'm not sure that it was ever meant to be that way because the reality reminds us that we can't do this alone, that we need a God who is bigger than us. And He is the God who loves both child and parent beyond our comprehension.

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:
ParentCue.org

Download the free [Parent Cue App](#)
AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES



PARTY HATS

- **What You Need** — Paper, Markers, and Stickers
- **What You Do** — Create party hats out of paper, be as creative as you like! Then decorate with markers and stickers!
- **What You Say** — “The older brother missed out on a super fun party. Why? Because, unlike his father, he refused to forgive. What could we miss out on when we refuse to forgive? ... Refusing to forgive could cause you to miss out on a friendship! One thing that’s super important to remember is that NO one is perfect. We all mess up sometimes. We all say things we don’t really mean or do things that hurt others. Hopefully when that happens, like in the story Jesus told, the other person apologizes. And in that case, we should offer forgiveness for sure. Remember, when you don’t forgive, you miss out.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What can it cost you to hold a grudge? For example, what might you miss out on if you decided to hold a grudge and not forgive a friend?
- What if a friend says something unkind to you and they never say they are sorry? Do you still forgive them? Do you only forgive someone if they ask you.
- Is forgiveness always fair? How does it make you feel when it’s not fair?

QUESTIONS?

Contact us with any questions you have about this activity guide. Please note, we can best support you during the week (Monday thru Friday). No question is too big or too small. We’re here to help! With love, Elisa Booker and Danielle Swink