



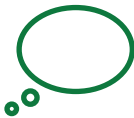
WEEK FOUR

THE STORY OF THE LOST SON • LUKE 15:11-24



SAY THIS:

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE FORGIVEN.



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:



Grab a special treat through the drive through and ask your child, “Is there anyone at school, home, or church that you need to forgive or that needs forgiveness from you?” Remind them that everyone needs to be forgiven and tell them about a time you had to choose forgiveness or when someone forgave you. Forgiveness can be as sweet as the treat you are enjoying, so don’t miss out—go for it!

FORGIVENESS:

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

FORGIVENESS ROCKS

By Mike Clear

As a child, growing up, I liked rocks. I liked to collect rocks, make towers out of rocks, and skipping rocks. I had this habit of gathering rocks everywhere I went. I would put the rocks I collected in my pockets and carry them around with me wherever I would go. Here's what I discovered: Rocks are heavy.

As a child growing up, I also dealt with pain in my life. Some of it was trivial, like getting picked on by my sisters. Some of the pain I dealt with though was much more hurtful, including my dad's angry outbursts growing up, and my parent's divorce and ugly custody battle when I was ten.

Fast forward a few decades later, and now I find myself in the position, as a parent, trying to teach my kids about the idea and importance of forgiveness. I would do anything to help my kids avoid any semblance of hurt and pain in their lives; however, I know that's just not possible.

My kids will experience pain both inside and outside of my control. For me, the focus instead is on what my kids will do with those hurts when they do happen. To help illustrate forgiveness for them, I decided to reach back into my childhood and pull out my old trusted friends—Rocks.

I want my kids to know that when they've been hurt by other people's words or actions, they have a choice to make. They can hold on to that hurt inside but that's much like carrying around a big rock with them everywhere they go. The more hurt and anger they hold onto, the bigger the rock they carry around which can really weigh them down and consume their life.

Instead, I try to encourage our kids to let go of their hurt and anger by choosing to forgive. When someone has wronged them, I give them a rock and encourage them to throw it, not at the one who hurt them, but rather as far as they can into the creek behind our house. When they throw their rock, I explain to them that it represents the idea of letting their anger go and deciding that the person who has wronged them doesn't have to pay.

My hope for my family and yours is that together we will discover what God can do when we choose to forgive.



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FORGIVENESS

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

BOTTOM LINE: Everyone needs to be forgiven.

Read Daniel 9:9

DAY 1

Done Wrong?

Sometimes we need to forgive others and sometimes we need to be forgiven. Think of a recent time that you did something that you needed to ask forgiveness for. Was it something like: not obeying, taking a sibling's toy, or saying something mean to a friend? If you haven't already done so, go ask for forgiveness and tell them what you have been learning about forgiveness this month.

Ask others for forgiveness when you need to.

DAY 2

Sorry, God!

God offers us forgiveness. But it's still nice to ask Him to forgive us. Think back to yesterday and the situation that you needed to ask forgiveness for from a friend. Talk to God and ask Him to forgive you for hurting someone else. You can pray something like this:

"Dear God, Thank you for always forgiving me no matter what. I pray that you will forgive me when I was not kind to my friends or family members. I love you, God. Amen."

Thank God for always forgiving you.

DAY 3

Memory

Grab someone to do this activity with you! Look up this week's verse: **Daniel 9:9**. Write or type this week's Bible verse onto a sheet of paper. Cut the words apart and tape the words to a wall or table. Say the verse out loud, then remove one word. Have your friend say the verse again, seeing if they can remember the missing word. Then, take away another word. Repeat until all of the words are gone and you are saying the verse from memory!

Look for ways you can forgive others because you are forgiven.

DAY 4

"I Will Forgive"

Sometimes we need a little help remembering why and who to forgive. So below are some "I will" statements that we can say to remind us who and why we need to forgive. Practice saying the statements below every time you need to!

"I will remember Jesus died for me."

"I will forgive others"

"I will ask for forgiveness when I need to."

Know that when we forgive others, it shows that we love them.



FORGIVENESS

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

Read Colossians 1:14

DAY 1

This passage talks about who? Yes, Jesus! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to do what no one else could do. He willingly faced the worst punishment of all, death on a cross, for you and for me. Why? So that we could be forgiven.

Grab some masking tape and a piece of paper. Use the masking tape to create a cross in the center of the page. Use a crayon or marker to color the page any way you choose. When finished, remove the tape in the center to reveal the cross. Then, write today's verse inside the cross, filling in the blanks as indicated below.

"Because of what Jesus has done, _____ has been set free. Because of Jesus, all
Your name
my sins have been forgiven." Colossians 1:14

Have you heard this good news before? Do you understand why Jesus chose to give His life so that you could be forgiven? If not, ask your parent or another trusted adult who follows God about what Jesus has done. Pray that God would help you follow Him and trust in Jesus so that you can be forgiven.

Read Romans 3:23

DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper and draw a target on the center. Wad up a few pieces of paper to use as your "darts." Hang up the target and stand several feet away. See if you can hit the target right in the center, standing in the exact same spot, 15 times in a row. Probably pretty difficult, right?

Sin is a little word that causes a lot of big problems. To sin means to miss the mark. Sin isn't just a problem for you, it's a problem for everyone. Imagine if God said, "Hey, if you want to have a relationship with me, then you need to hit the bullseye every single time." That would be like God saying, "If you want to have a relationship with me, you have to be perfect."

Guess what? No one can measure up to God's glory and perfection. But God loves you. He sent Jesus to die on the cross so that you can be forgiven.

Take a look at your dart board. Ask God to help you accept the forgiveness He offers when you miss the mark. Thank Him for sending Jesus so that you could be forgiven.

Read Ephesians 2:4-5

DAY 3

Grab a piece of foil from the kitchen. Crumple it into a ball and then spread it back out on the counter. Can you make it look as shiny and smooth as it did before? Nope! This is kind of how our lives look when we mess up. Remember, everyone messes up. It's not just you. We all look like that crumpled up piece of foil.

God knows that no matter how hard we might try, we can never fix all those mess-ups on our own. **But God LOVES us deeply.** He is full of mercy. God sent Jesus so that our sins, our mess-ups, could be forgiven. His grace, which we cannot earn and do not deserve, has saved us. That's how BIG God's love is for you and for me.

Grab a ball point pen and draw a large heart in the center of your piece of foil. Use the pen to create a cool design inside the heart, creating ridges in the foil. Color in your design with permanent markers. Hang your heart in a place where you'll see it each day.

Tell God thank you for loving you so much that He sent His only Son so that everyone can be forgiven.

Read Acts 10:43

DAY 4

Think about the last time someone hurt you. How did you respond? Did you say something unkind back? Are you still mad?

Do you see the word "all" in today's verse? It comes up twice. First, it talks about how *all* the prophets, (men chosen by God to deliver an important message) tell us about Jesus. And all who believe in Him will be forgiven.

"All" includes the kid you still haven't forgiven. All includes your parents, your teachers, your favorite coach, and your grandparents. All includes the kids no one talks to and the kids everyone wants to hang out with. All includes you. God loves you so much and His forgiveness is SO big that it covers everything.

Everyone needs forgiveness. God sent His only Son, to die and be buried and rise again so that our sin, the mess ups we all make, would no longer separate us from Him. As you pray today, thank God for the forgiveness He offers to everyone. Ask Him to help you choose to forgive, because everyone needs forgiveness.

