



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.

FORGIVENESS

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

BOTTOM LINE: When you don't forgive, you miss out.

Read Colossians 3:13

DAY **1**

No I'm Sorry?

Sometimes, others might not actually say the words, "I'm sorry," to you when they have done something wrong. So, how can you forgive them? Sometimes we just have to forgive them in our hearts and not hold it against them. Think about a person that you might need to forgive today. Pray to God and ask Him to help you.

"Dear God, Please help me forgive _____ (insert name here). I want them to know that they are special to me no matter what. I want to keep my friendship with them. In Jesus name, amen."

Look for ways that you can forgive others even when they don't ask.

DAY **2**

To Forgive or Not to Forgive

Read some situations below and decide if in that situation you should forgive that person or not.

Your little sister took your favorite toy and broke it by accident.

To Forgive or Not to Forgive

You were at school and a kid in your class grabbed a book out of your hand without asking.

To Forgive or Not to Forgive

Your neighbor borrowed your bike and left it in the middle of the road overnight.

To Forgive or Not to Forgive

Know that quickly forgiving someone will help you to not miss out.

DAY **3**

Don't Forget to Forgive

Learning motions to a Bible verse makes it easier to remember! Do the following motions to help remember this week's verse:

"Put up with one another.

(Point around like you are pointing at friends)

Forgive one another (hug the air)

if you are holding something against someone.

(pretend to push the air away from you)

Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you."

(cross your arms in front of your chest)

Colossians 3:13, NIV

Ask God for opportunities to forgive one another because the He forgave you.

DAY **4**

Forgiveness Necklace

Make a forgiveness necklace! Grab some paper, scissors, string, and something to draw with.

Cut a shape out of the piece of paper big enough that you can write on. Once you have cut out your shape, write the words "I Will Forgive" on the paper, punch a hole on the top, and loop a string through it. Wear this necklace around your neck to remind you to forgive all the time.

Look for ways that you can accept forgiveness and give it whenever you need to.

*Color in the letters to the word
FORGIVENESS and then stick it
somewhere in your house that you
can see often to remind you to forgive.*





WEEK FIVE

FATHER AND OLDER BROTHER • LUKE 15:21-32



SAY THIS:

WHEN YOU DON'T FORGIVE,
YOU MISS OUT.



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, NIV



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

A SAFE PLACE TO LAND

By Sarah Bragg

My oldest daughter is 10, and for the past year and a half, she spends most of her free time at the farm. She has always had a great affinity for horses. When she isn't riding, she's working at the farm—cleaning stalls, catching horses in the field, or bathing them.

Normally, she's all smiles after the farm. But recently, I arrived to pick her up, and as she sat down in the car, she broke down in tears. The work had been hard. She had to oil saddles for over two hours. It had to be redone and took up all her time—which meant no time to ride. I think it was a combination of exhaustion, disappointment, and embarrassment. Unmet expectations at any age can sometimes leave us in tears.

I normally don't handle emotions well. I like to breeze right on past them with quick fixes. And often times, I'm running at full speed between work obligations and family needs. So I'm not usually in a place to sit still with their emotions. But for once, I was in a restful, ready place to meet her sadness with gentleness. Handling your child's emotions isn't easy, and it is most definitely exhausting and never convenient. But in that moment, she needed a safe place to land. No fixing. Just safety. Gentleness.

So, she sat in the seat beside me and cried. And I sat in the seat beside her and listened and offered empathy. And

then when we arrived home, I sat with her while she ate dinner late. And then instead of homework, we played a few rounds of the game, "Speed."

That night as we said goodnight, I asked her the question I've been asking each night: "What are you thankful for? What made you happy today?" Her usual answer involved a horse, but this time she thought about it for a minute. And then she looked at me and said, "You." It wasn't a trite answer. It wasn't a generic answer. I knew it was true. That night, I showed up. I gave her what she needed from me. I gave her a gentle place to land.

When we give our kids our presence, we are choosing to be a gentle place for them to land. Because here's what I know to be true: You can't multitask presence. You can't be thinking about your agenda while trying to comfort a child. It never works well.

You can't prevent your children from feeling disappointed, sad, embarrassed, or exhausted; but you can show up in those moments and be fully present, and safe.

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

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