



WEEK FOUR

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



ASK THIS:

WHEN HAS SOMEONE FORGIVEN YOU?



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:



While in the car, ask your preteen, “Is there anything that is keeping you from forgiving someone?” Try to talk through it; what happened, why it’s hard to forgive, and then how we can lose when we choose to not forgive someone. Tell about a time you had to choose forgiveness even when you didn’t want to.

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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ParentCue.org

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 15:11-24

Put a number in the blank beside each of these events, in order according to the story Jesus told in Luke 15. When you're done, go back and read Luke 15:11-24 to see if you got it right.

- ___ The father called for his servants to bring his best robe.
- ___ The son ran out of money.
- ___ The father ran out to him.
- ___ The younger son moved away.
- ___ The younger son asked for his share of the inheritance.
- ___ The son went home.
- ___ The country experienced a famine.
- ___ The father called for a party to celebrate.
- ___ The son got a job feeding pigs.
- ___ The father gave him what he asked.
- ___ The son apologized.
- ___ A man had two sons.
- ___ The son wasted his money living a wild and crazy life.
- ___ The son realized he could ask for his father's forgiveness.

Notice the order of 10, 11 and 12. All it took was for the son to head home to his father for the father to forgive him. He didn't even get out his apology to his father for the way he had treated him and wasted all his father had given him before his father was welcoming him back into the family. His hug said it all to his son: **"You don't owe me anymore."**

Answers: 13, 6, 11, 4, 2, 10, 7, 14, 8, 3, 12, 1, 5, 9

DAY 4

Have you asked God to forgive you for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus? Maybe you even did it yesterday! If you did, how cool! And if you aren't ready for that step yet, that's okay too! The good news is that God is always there, waiting, just like the father in the story Jesus told in Luke 15. The son may have wandered from home and messed up, but the father was always there, waiting to welcome him back!

If you have made this decision, take some time today to tell someone about it! Think about someone you know who follows Jesus. They will

DAY 3

In the story Jesus told as recorded in Luke 15, when the younger son realized he had done something wrong, he went home to make it right. When we realize we have done something that was wrong, we too need to ask for forgiveness.

Think back over the last few weeks. Is there something you did that you know was wrong? Did you hurt someone, or break a rule? Were you dishonest?

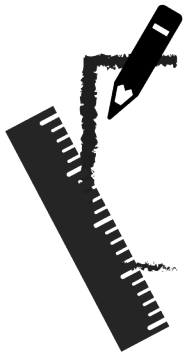
The truth is, you are not alone. We have all done things that are wrong, and **everyone needs to be forgiven**. But God decided we didn't have to pay for what we did wrong by sending Jesus. Jesus took on our sin and paid the price for us when He died on the cross. All we have to do is ask forgiveness for our sin, and we are immediately forgiven and made clean!

Have you ever told God you were sorry for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you haven't, and you'd like to, find a parent or adult who you know trusts in Jesus, and ask them to pray with you, telling God you're sorry for the things you've done wrong, and thanking Him for sending Jesus to be your Savior. Whether you decide to put your trust in Jesus today, or you have made that decision in the past, take a minute to pray a prayer of thankfulness too—forgiveness is the most amazing gift we can receive!

be so excited to hear you've decided to trust Him too. Be sure and tell them how it feels to experience forgiveness (really good, right?!).

Also, take a minute to talk about what this forgiveness means going forward. Does this mean you'll never mess up or need to apologize again. (Hint: Nope.) But share with each other how it feels to know that even when you mess up in the future, God is always there, waiting to welcome you back home with forgiveness.





WHEN HAS SOMEONE FORGIVEN YOU?

DAY 5

It feels awesome to know God has forgiven you, doesn't it? But how about others? Have you ever had to ask for forgiveness from someone else for something you did that hurt them? How did it feel when they forgave you?

Grab a sheet of paper and write your own parable. It could be based on a true story from your own life, or just a modern day re-telling of the story Jesus told. Either way, before you write, think about how you've felt when you've messed up, and how you felt when you were forgiven. Include those emotions in your story.

After you write your story, take some time to share it with your family and then hang it somewhere that reminds all of you how great it feels to be forgiven.

