

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing

Bible Story: I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Older Brother) • *Luke 15:21-32*

Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.

Key Question: What do you lose if you don't forgive?

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

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story: Watch video on CF Promiseland facebook page or read in your Bible: *Luke 15:21-32*

After story activity (10+ minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions. You can choose one or more activities to do with your kids

Option 1. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bibles, wrapped candy (optional), cotton balls (Optional)

What You Do:

- **Review** the story.
- **Ask:**
 - What was the father's response to the younger brother's return?
 - How would you describe the older brother when he found out his father threw a party celebrating the younger son's return? *(If necessary, read Luke 15:28-29. Answers could include: angry, bitter, jealous, ungrateful)*
 - What was the older brother missing out on by choosing to hold onto his negative emotions toward his brother?
 - What was the father's response to his older son? *(Luke 15:31)*
- Even though what his younger brother did was wrong, the older son had a choice to make. The older brother could decide to let go of his anger and bitterness or he could hold on to it and decide his younger brother should pay.
- **(optional) Place** a wrapped piece of candy in front of each of your kids and **give** each kid a cotton ball.
- **Give** your kids time to think of something they may be holding against someone. Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly. Maybe someone flattened a tire on their bike or broke their favorite toy. Maybe they are angry at someone for not doing what they said they

would do. Or prompt kids to think about how the older brother was holding onto his anger and resentment.

- **Explain** that the cotton ball represents something you're holding against someone.
- **Tell** kids hold on to the cotton ball with both hands and squeeze as tightly as they can.
- While squeezing the cotton ball with both hands, **challenge** kids to unwrap the candy using only their hands.
- **Tell** kids to open their hands so the cotton ball is resting on their palms.
- Just like you cannot grab onto the candy while focusing on squeezing the cotton ball, when you are holding on to grudges and focusing on how you may have been wronged, you could miss out on a lot. (e.g. friendships, good times with others, joy, a party [like the older brother missed out on], etc.)

Option 2. Discussion Questions

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with each other and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- 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? **[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share about a time when someone treated you unfairly or when you were mad at someone for how they treated you. Did you forgive them right away? Did it take you time to forgive them? How did you feel when you decided to forgive them? Did you miss out on something because you wanted to make them pay?)**

Option 3. Verse to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles, index cards (optional)

What You Do:

- **Ask:** What could you miss out on if you choose not to forgive someone, to hold a grudge, or to get even with someone who has wronged you?
- **Discuss** the answers.
- Look up Matthew 22:39 and read it together.
- **Ask:**
 - How can forgiveness show others you love God?
 - How can forgiveness show others God loves them?
 - What opportunities can you miss out on when you choose not to forgive?

- **(optional) Tell** kids to write the verse reference, Matthew 22:39 on a card.
- **(optional) Encourage** them to write out the verse directly from the Bible, or paraphrase it on the card.
- **Challenge** them to memorize the verse and place their cards somewhere as a reminder that forgiveness is important to God.

Our Lent challenge:

Our kindergarten through 5th grade students were challenged with trying to memorize the Lord's prayer. They can use any bible version but below is the NIV version. Students who can recite the Lord's prayer will get a ticket for an ice cream social!

The Lord's prayer

Matthew 6: 9-13 NIV,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.