

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing

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

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

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

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.

* Option 1. Forgiveness Recap (This is a review of all this month's stories)

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body.

What you Need: none needed (if have bolded items you can put actual items in a box, or write the words on separate pieces of paper, otherwise just say the bolded word)

What You Do:

- Have the kids sit in a circle around a table or on the floor.
- (if you have these items you can Put them in a box in the middle and tell them you are going to try and remember all of our stories from this month.)
- Invite one of your children to pick an item out of the box or chose a piece of paper if you have, otherwise just say a random word below (coin, food, shoe, pig, party blower)
- Use the guide below to see if the kids can remember the story and the Bottom Line.
 - **Coin:** The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 8:21-35). In the story, the king forgave all the servant owed him and asked for nothing in return, just like God forgives us. **Bottom Line: Forgive others because God forgives you.**
 - **Pretend Food:** Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). Zacchaeus was not a very nice man. When Jesus came to his town, Jesus wanted to go to his house for dinner. People were so shocked that Jesus wanted to eat with a man who was so mean. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his mistakes and changed his heart. Zacchaeus went on to change the people around him by giving them all of their money back. **Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.**
 - **Shoe:** Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness (Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24) Jesus talked about how we should go to our friends first to work on forgiveness before we do anything else. **Bottom Line: Take the first step to forgive others.**

- **Pig:** The Story of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-24). The son in this story decided to leave his home and spend all of his money on silly things. He ended up sitting with the pigs because he did not make the best choices. He returned home to find his dad so excited that he was home. The dad forgave his son even though he made some mistakes, just like God forgives us. **Bottom Line: Everyone needs to be forgiven.**
- **Party Blowers:** Father and Older Brother (Luke 15:21-32). After the son returned home, the dad wanted to throw a huge party. The older brother was not very happy about it and was almost going to miss out on the celebration. He learned that he should be happy that his brother returned home and asked for forgiveness. **Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.**

What You Say:

"Which of these people we've talked about this month do you think was the most thankful to be forgiven? (*There is no right answer to this. Simply encourage the kids to share their thoughts.*) I think they were all SUPER thankful to be forgiven! I'm always thankful to be forgiven, too. Aren't you?"

"We learned so much this month about forgiveness. It is important for us to ask for forgiveness, forgive others, and celebrate forgiveness. Sometimes it takes hard work and time to forgive those around us, but remember our story today taught us that **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

Option 2. Blocking the Fun

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing

What You Need: Large stackable items such as Mega Bloks®, LEGO® blocks, or books

What You Do:

- Set out your stackable items
- One child will hold their arms out while another or you the parent, stacks blocks onto their arms. Stack the blocks not too heavy, but heavy enough to where it is a little tricky to move.
- Play some music and tell the kids holding blocks to try and dance.
- Give them a few minutes to try and dance holding the blocks.
- Switch partners and give them a chance to stack the blocks and dance.

What You Say

"It is kinda tricky to hold the blocks and dance at the same time, right? In our story today, the older brother couldn't celebrate forgiveness because he was too busy holding things against his younger brother. It is just like the older brother was holding lots of heavy blocks so they got in the way of him celebrating! When we choose to forgive others, it is like dropping all of this heavy weight. When we choose not to forgive, the heavy stuff keeps us from celebrating or simply having a good day.

"Let's think about some times this might happen to us. Maybe you're so mad that your little brother tore up your favorite book that you scream at him, get in trouble with your parents, and miss out on a play date with your best friend. Or maybe you're so upset that your mom forgot she had a meeting when she had promised you would have family movie night tonight, and you spend the whole evening pouting and thinking mean thoughts about her instead of simply enjoying spending time with the rest of your family. Or what if you don't get that really expensive gift you wanted for your birthday, so you refuse to play

with the toys you DID get and won't talk to anyone at your party? Remember that **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell a child-appropriate story about a time when you missed out on celebrating because you didn't forgive. Share about how that made you feel and how you eventually came around.)

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.

Pray

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Party blowers (optional)

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor or around a table and give everyone a party blower if you have them.
- Ask kids to call out things we can celebrate about God.
 - Kids may need some prompting at first. You can start by saying a few things yourself, such as: He made us, He loves us, He forgives us, etc.
- After each one, blow your party blowers (alternate if no party blowers you can clap or come up with a quick celebration sound or movement).

What You Say:

"Let's pray and thank God for all that He does for us and then we can celebrate! Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us no matter what and teaching us to forgive others. We love You so much. Amen!"

"It is so amazing that God forgives us, and I think it's also amazing that He gives us the ability to forgive others. This week, remember **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"