



WEEK FIVE – MARCH 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

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.*

Summary: In Luke 15:21–32, we pick up the story of the Lost Son we start in Week 4. 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.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Make Me Laugh

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

What You Need: “Make Me Laugh” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Tell the kids you are going to tell some jokes, but they have to try not to laugh.
- Guide kids to form a straight line facing you.
- Read the jokes from the Activity Page.
- If kids laugh, they are out. The last serious kid standing is the winner.
- Play again if time allows, and see if the kids have any jokes of their own.

What You Say:

*“Those were so hilarious! It is so hard being serious when everyone else is laughing and having fun. It almost feels like you are missing out on the joke. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear a story that we definitely don’t want to miss out on.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *When you don’t forgive, you miss out. When we choose not to forgive others, we could miss out on rebuilding a broken relationship. We might miss out on friendships or new, fun memories with our family, or peace in our own hearts. We could also miss out on the joy that God can give us when we choose to show forgiveness.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Forgiveness Recap

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Prepared box with items inside

What You Do:

- Have the kids sit in a circle around a table or on the floor.
- Put the box in the middle and tell them you are going to try and remember all of our stories from this month.
- Invite one child to pull something out of the box.
- 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.***

2. Blocking the Fun

[Application Activity]

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 and invite the kids to pair up.
- One partner will hold their arms out while the other partner 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.)*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Party blowers

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor or around a table and give everyone a party blower.
- 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.

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.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to blow their party blowers and tell them their favorite thing we can celebrate about God.