



## WEEK FOUR – MARCH 2020

**Bible Story:** Please Forgive Me (The Story of the Lost Son) • *Luke 15:11-24*

**Bottom Line:** Everyone needs to be forgiven.

**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 can trust God no matter what.

**9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 - KIDS ARRIVE**

### Team Welcomes Kids *(Providing Time for Fun Interactions)*

"Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Jesus loves [child's name]"

shout out the name

#### 1. Early Arriver Idea: Top of the Playlist

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

**What You Need:** Prepared 1, 2, and 3 papers

**What You Do:**

- Set the papers on the floor in different spots in your small group area.
- Name three different songs kids would be familiar with (you can use songs they sang or mentioned in Early Arriver), and designate a number for each one. For example:
  - "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"
  - "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"
  - "The Alphabet Song"
- Tell kids to run to the number of the song they like best or that they'd put at the top of their playlist.

- For the second round, you can either replace one of the initial songs with a new one, and see if any kids change their minds, OR you can name three completely different songs.
- Play as many rounds as you have time for. If interest starts to wane, allow kids to take turns calling out the songs (or singing a portion of the song, if they don't know the titles).

**What You Say:**

*“When we put together a list of songs, it’s called a playlist. We often put the songs we like best at the top—or the beginning—of a playlist. So what does a playlist have to do with what we’re learning today? [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and find out!”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

**9:10-9:35 | 10:40-11:05 - LARGE GROUP**

*Bible Story – INTRO, Story, OUTRO Videos (whatever works best for your few)  
Worship SONGS*

**9:35-10:05 | 11:05-11:35 - SMALL GROUP**

**GROUPS**

*(Creating a Safe Place to Connect)*

**1. Story Board**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What you Need:** Construction paper, crayons, large piece of butcher paper, tape, line tracing pages *(optional)*

**What You Do:**

- Pair up the kids.
- Give each pair a piece of construction paper.
- Assign each pair a part of the story to draw:
  1. The father gave the son all of his inheritance.
  2. The son left home and spent all his money.
  3. The son ended up eating with pigs.
  4. The son decided to go back home. The father saw his son coming home and ran toward him to give him a hug.
  5. The son asked for forgiveness.
- Give kids time to draw their part. Remind them of what happened if needed.
- While kids are drawing, tape the butcher paper on the wall or create space to lay it on the floor.
- Once all of their drawings are finished, call on the group that drew part one.
  - Tell kids to explain their part of their story. You might need to prompt them by asking questions about details from the story and/or things you see in their drawing.
  - Give kids a piece of tape so they can put their drawing on the butcher paper.
- Continue with each pair, as they tape their pictures in order on the butcher paper.

- If movement is a concern, give each child a line tracing page. Challenge them to trace the lines with their eyes closed.

### What You Say:

“Great job working together and putting all of our story pieces together. The son in our story made some bad decisions, but he still came back to his father to ask for forgiveness. What did the father do when he came back? (*He threw a party!*) The story today reminds us that even when we make really big mistakes, **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**”

“What are some things that kids your age might need to be forgiven for? (*Encourage responses, such as: telling a lie, disobeying my parents, yelling at my brother for messing up a video game, using my sister’s stickers without asking, etc.*) Those are the kind of things we all do sometimes, and they’re things we need to ask forgiveness for. Some of those things might also be done TO us, and we need to forgive the other person, even if we’re angry and even if they don’t ask for forgiveness. **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.**”

**[Make It Personal] (Tell about a child-appropriate time when you made the decision to forgive someone even when it was hard. Tell how that grew your relationship with God.)**

### 3. Memory Verse Toss

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Beach ball with part of the memory verse written on it, dry erase board or chart paper with the memory verse written on it

#### What You Do:

- Review the memory verse with the kids by reading it from a dry erase board or chart paper.
- Then say just the last sentence of the verse together several times.
- Show kids that the sentence they just said is written on the beach ball.
- Play a game with the ball:
  - Work together to keep the ball up in the air.
  - Periodically “pause” the game and ask the kid with the ball to find a particular word from the verse on the beach ball (point it out on the board).
  - If the ball drops, work together to say the entire verse (prompting kids who can read to reference the board).

#### What You Say:

“That was so fun! This verse will help us remember that **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven** because God forgives us! He forgives us when we sin—or do things that go against what His Word tells us to do or not do. And He wants us to forgive others when they do things against us. Can you tell me about a time you forgave someone? Don’t say their name—just quickly tell us what happened and how you responded.

(Allow kids to share stories as time allows.) Those were some great stories. Let's all remember to forgive others because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**"

### **Pray and Dismiss**

#### **[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:** Beach ball from the "Memory Verse Toss" activity

#### **What You Do:**

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Roll the ball to kids in the circle and have the kids repeat the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.**
- Close with the prayer below.

#### **What You Say:**

"Dear God, You are so amazing and wonderful. We thank You for forgiving us when we sin against You. Help us to also forgive others when they sin against us because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.** We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.

"Tell me one more time: Who needs to be forgiven? **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven!** That's right. Let's remember that as we go about our week. I'm sure each one of us will need to forgive someone this week. So let's forgive, just as God forgives us."

As adults arrive to pick up encourage kids to challenge their parents to balance on the painter's tape or trace a line with their eyes closed.