



## WEEK FOUR – MARCH 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

**Summary:** In Luke 15:11-24, Jesus shares a parable to help people understand God’s amazing grace and forgiveness. A son came to his father and asked for his share of the inheritance. This broke the father’s heart, but he went ahead and gave the son what he wanted. The son wasted every last penny and hit rock bottom. He decided to go home to his father and ask forgiveness. The father was waiting with arms open wide and ready to have his son home.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Early Arriver Idea

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

**What You Need:** “Follow the Maze” Activity Page; crayons

**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
- After they have settled in, hand out an Activity Page to each child.
- Encourage them to follow the maze to get home.

### 2. Create a Story

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to sit around a table or in a circle on the floor.
- Work together to tell a story:
  - Begin the story by saying a few sentences.
  - The child to your right will add a few more sentences.
  - When you say, “Stop,” the next child will continue the story.
  - Continue on around the circle.

**What You Say:**

*“What a story we created together. It was so fun to see how creative you were and how the story took so many turns! [Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear about a really important story Jesus told.”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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## OVERVIEW:

**Bottom Line:** *Everyone needs to be forgiven. Everyone at some point will do something to hurt another person, and we've all done something that goes against what God wants for us. We all need forgiveness. Thankfully, through Jesus, God offers forgiveness no matter what we've done.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Story Board

#### [Bible Story Review]

*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

#### 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:
  - The father gave the son all of his inheritance.
  - The son left home and spent all his money.
  - The son ended up eating with pigs.
  - The son decided to go back home. The father saw his son coming home and ran toward him to give him a hug.
  - 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.

#### 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.)

## 2. Balancing Act

### [Application Activity]

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Prepared tape lines on the floor

### What You Do:

- Kids will take turns walking on the lines and trying to balance without touching the floor where there’s no tape.
- After kids have each had a turn, make it harder by challenging them to hop on one foot or jump along the lines.

### What You Say:

*“That was hard balancing on the lines. Sometimes you fell off or made a mistake. You and I make mistakes all the time—sometimes every day—just like the son in our story today made mistakes. Was he forgiven by his dad? (Pause.) Was he forgiven by God? (Pause.)*

*“We can also be forgiven when we make mistakes. Can anyone tell me about a time when someone forgave you? (Encourage kids to share some stories about times someone forgave them. They may need some prompting. Maybe a parent forgave them for yelling mean things or for being disobedient. Or perhaps a friend forgave them when they accidentally broke the friend’s toy.) It’s such a great feeling when someone forgives us, isn’t it? And it’s also a great feeling when we forgive someone else. Let’s remember that the next time we need to forgive someone. **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven—and that includes you and me!**”*

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Ball

**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 tape lines.***