

PARENT GUIDE

K-2nd Grade

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)

ACTIVITY: A PROPER REVIEW

WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

What You Do:

- Write (or print) the following parts of the story down on paper. Then divide the pieces of paper and scramble them up for kids to put in order from memory:
 - The younger of two sons asked his father for his share of the inheritance.
 - The father gave the money to his son.
 - The son packed up and left home for a faraway country.
 - There, the son wasted all his money.
 - The son became so hungry, he took a job caring for pigs.
 - The son decided to return home and beg to be let back in as a servant.
 - The father ran to meet him, gave him a hug, and gave him the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his feet.
 - The father threw a huge party to welcome his son home.

Once they are done, open the Bible and read Luke 15:11-24 to review if the story was placed in order correctly.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Why do you think Jesus told this story? How does our heavenly Father act like the earthly father in this story? (Pause for kids to respond and discuss.) The father in this story Jesus told had every right to be angry. While his father was still living, the son had asked for his inheritance, which is something that is only given when someone dies! And what did the son do with that hard-earned money? He wasted it. The father could have refused to see him or, at the very least, let him come back only as a servant. But what did he do? The father ran to him, hugged him, and forgave him. He was so happy to see him that he threw a big party to celebrate his return. Everyone needs to be forgiven. The good news for us is that God LOVES each one of us. He loves us SO much that He sent Jesus, His only Son. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, the stuff that separates us from God. Jesus made a way for EVERYONE to be forgiven! When we believe or trust in Jesus so that we can be forgiven, we can have a friendship with God forever!"

BIBLE STORY: PLEASE FORGIVE ME (LOST SON) • LUKE 15:11-24



DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- What is one way you responded this week when you've done something wrong?
- When has someone forgiven you? Encourage kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?

ACTIVITY: COMPLETE THE VERSE

Review the Memory Verse with your kids by playing a fun game of complete the verse! Here's what you'll do:

- Say "PUT UP WITH" and pause to have kids say the next three words, this will last until you get to Colossians 3:13!
- Continue the game by switching the words you leave out. Doing this helps kids have the Word planted in their hearts.

PRAYER

"God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We don't want to stay angry and blow up and do something unkind. Help us to let it go and choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."