

Please Forgive Me

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.

Note from Ms. Jen to Parents!

We have edited the following Small Group lesson so that you can play with and mentor your kids at home this week. WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP MORE INTENTIONAL FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP! Your kids will receive one point in our weekly contest for EVERY activity they complete. Simply POST a picture or video of them doing these and tag us on Facebook @SugarloafKidsMinistry. If you do not have Facebook, you can email me that they have participated at: jen@sugarloaf.org .

We care about you and want to hear from you! We want to see your faces on social media - pastor asks that we be visible as a church and shine! Please let us know if you need our support or help and what you are doing while you are home. Do not receive the lie of the enemy that we are isolated! We are connected IN CHRIST JESUS, as the Bride of Christ. We may have to think about new ways to live in community, but IN HIM ~ we are joined. We are Son's and Daughter's of the King! We are not isolated. We love you! Have a great week!

1. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: floor tape

What You Do:

- Use the tape to make a line down the middle of your small group area. Designate one side “true” and the other “false.”
- Call out the items listed below. Some are actual needs all people have, and some are things people like to have.
 - Shelter, chocolate, video games, people to love them, food, tacos, glittery backpacks, clean water, Wi-Fi, education, Minecraft skills, a place to sleep, Funko Pops, oxygen
- If kids think it’s true -people NEED the thing you called out, they should jump to the “true” side. If not, they jump to the “false” side of the line.
- Explain that we don’t all need the same things, but there are some things everyone needs!

2. Hammer It Home (For Fun Warm-up Activity)

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

What You Need: Golf tees; floral foam or a pool noodle; toy hammers, ping-pong paddles, and/or kitchen spatulas (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Give each kid several golf tees and a piece of foam or pool noodle.
- If you're using the optional tools, pass them out now.
- Or kids can use their shoes, markers, hardback books (but not Bibles!), etc. as "hammers."
- Challenge kids to hammer the tees into the foam as if they were nails into wood.
- Remind them that in order to participate in this activity, they have to use self-control and keep themselves and other kids safe!
- When everyone has several tees in their foam, set them aside to use again later.

What You Say:

"You hammered those 'nails' pretty deep! It would be hard to get some of these out. We all make choices we can't undo.

In our lesson this week, we heard about someone who learned that the hard way."

Can you tell me who it was?

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Light Bulb!

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Ask your kids to draw a picture of a BIG light bulb on a piece of paper. You need 2 light bulb pictures. “Light Bulb Visual” Activity pages; wall tape

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams and assign each team a wall, preferably on opposite sides of the room.
- Tape a “Light Bulb Picture!” (-the one the kids drew)- to each team’s wall and place the “Light Bulb Story Cards” in the middle of the room, separated into two piles.
- Teams must start from the middle of the room.
- The first player on each team grabs a Story Card and puts a tape loop on it (you could have this done in advance if you have younger players).
- Then they run to their team’s wall and decide if the Story Card goes before or after the “light bulb moment” when the younger son realized he could be forgiven.
- Then they run back and tag the next person in their group.
- After all the strips are on the wall, subsequent players can move one strip at a time if they think it’s out of order.
- When the team feels confident that their strips are in order, they should stand with their backs to their wall and say together: “Light bulb! **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.**”
- If they are correct, they win the game; if not, they must sit out one round while the other team adjusts their own story line.

Continued....

Story Card descriptions, in order:

- The younger son leaves home with his money while his dad and big brother wave.
- He happily travels from his home.
- He settles in faraway lands.
- He wastes his money on parties, food, and more.
- He spends all his money.
- His friends leave, and he ends up alone.
- He gets a job feeding pigs.
- He's hungry enough to eat pig slop.
- He realizes he could go home to his dad.
- He heads back home and practices his speech.
- His dad meets him and hugs him.

What You Say:

"This is a really well-known Bible story, and I'm sure some of you were familiar with it before today.

The big news about this story isn't the selfishness of the younger son or the crazy parties he wasted his money on or even feeding the smelly pigs.

The best part of the story is when he had that 'light bulb' moment and realized he needed to be forgiven to make his life right again.

He'd go home, 'fess up to his dad, and see what happened. He trusted his dad to do what was fair, even if he didn't deserve it.

"Have you ever felt like that—you made a bad decision and about halfway in, you felt awful?
(Allow for responses.)

Everyone has done something, like the younger son, that seemed like a good idea at the time, but it turned out to be dangerous or bad for you or just made you miserable.

That's when we can have our own light bulb moment and realize **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**"

*** 2. Pulling Nails****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: The golf tees pounded into the foam from the Social activity; oven mitts or snow mittens

What You Do:

- Give kids back their pieces of foam with the golf tees pounded in.
- Instruct them to remove the tees, but add a twist. They have to wear the oven mitts or mittens while trying to get the tees out of the foam.
- If you have more than one set of gloves, let kids work in pairs to try and remove their tees. One person holds the foam and the other wears the gloves and pulls at the tees.
- They can switch after a couple minutes.

What You Say:

“Was that easier or more difficult than you expected? *(Invite responses.)*”

When we make an unwise choice or a bad decision, we just can't take it back. Have you ever felt stuck in a bad situation that you got yourself into? *(Allow for sharing, but don't press kids to admit things they're uncomfortable with. Don't let it become a one-up competition either.)*

That's happened to everyone, which is why **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.**”

[Make It Personal]

Share a time when you were a kid when you needed to be forgiven by a parent, teacher, or friend.

- **How did you get into that situation?**
- **What was your “light bulb moment” to realize that asking forgiveness was the key to move on?**
- **How did the people react who could forgive you?**
- **Did they let you make it right, or did they hold it against you?**

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

- How do you usually respond when you've done something wrong?
- Sometimes our bad decisions lead to bad outcomes. You take money from your mom's wallet and she finds out. Or you look at someone else's answers during a test and end up in the principal's office. Have you ever had to ask for forgiveness when you've been in a situation like that? How did that feel?
- What does it feel like to ask for God's forgiveness?

3. Everyone and No One

[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: Balloon; timer app or stopwatch; Bibles; sticky notes or tape (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Look up Colossians 3:13 in the Bibles. Say it several times so everyone remembers it.
- Assign each player a word or phrase from the verse.
- Gather them into a loose, standing circle, but not in verse order.
- Instruct the group to toss the balloon around as quickly as possible, while saying the verse in order.
- Everyone must toss (or bat into the air) the balloon once, and no one may touch it twice in a row.
- See how quickly they do it the first time, and then challenge them to do it even faster.
- Play a few rounds and see if they can get it under a minute, with everyone tossing the balloon once and no one touching it twice (in a row) AND the verse being said in order.
- *Optional:* To make this game a little bit easier for younger kids, consider putting a piece of tape or sticky note on each kid's shirt with their corresponding number in the verse order. This way, kids at least know who the balloon needs to go to next.

What You Say:

"This game got intense!

I like this game's name.

It's called 'Everyone and No One' because EVERYONE has to toss the ball once and NO ONE can touch it twice (in a row).

It reminds me of our Bible story today—that **[Bottom Line] EVERYONE needs to be forgiven**—and of our verse—that NO ONE is outside of God's forgiveness.

God has forgiven all of us, so we all can forgive each other.

And that's great, because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**"

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Golf tees from the “Pulling Nails” activity

What You Do:

- Set out the pile of golf tees pulled from the foam earlier.
- Let kids take a few and make a shape of something (on the floor or table) that reminds them of the Bible story today.
 - It could be a heart or a cross or a pig.
- As they do this, ask them to think about anything that they might like to ask God to forgive them for.
 - They should NOT say this out loud but pray silently and thank God for forgiving them when they ask.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, You knew that **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven**, so you sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. Thank You for forgiving us when we ask. We trust that You will help us be more forgiving of others because You’ve forgiven us. Amen.”