

# DIY: Forgiveness is up to you

WEEK  
**FOUR**

MARCH 2020

GRADES  
**2-3**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 KIDS

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**PRELUDE**

**SOCIAL**

**STORY**

**WORSHIP**

**GROUPS**

**HOME**

## BIBLE STORY

### Please Forgive Me

The Story of the Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-24

## 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

## LIFE APP

Forgiveness—Deciding that  
someone who has wronged  
you doesn't have to pay

## BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven.

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only  
Create the Environment  
Monthly Overview

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers  
Everyone's It!

**25**  
MIN

### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener  
Bible Story  
Worship  
Prayer  
Closer

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*  
"Good Good Father" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 4*

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

A PROPer Review  
Giving Hearts  
Verse Hideaway  
Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

**EARLY ARRIVER IDEA***Made to Create:* an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- An offering container
- Print the "Party Invitations" Activity Page and cut apart; one invitation for each kid
- Scissors
- Markers

**EVERYONE'S IT!***Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

**GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT**

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.***\* 1. A PROPER REVIEW****[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:**

- Bag of plastic coins
- Backpack
- Stuffed pig
- Robe or piece of fabric
- Bible

**2. GIVING HEARTS****[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]***Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Three paper heart cutouts

**3. VERSE HIDEAWAY****[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]***Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles
- 10+ paper scraps
- Pens

**PRAYER****[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]***Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- A deflated balloon

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

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**Everyone needs to be forgiven.**

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**I can trust God no matter what.**



## CREATE

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

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Everyone, no matter who they are or what they've done, needs to be forgiven. Pray that kids would begin to understand this truth today.*

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, "Party Invitations" (Activity Page), scissors, markers

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive and encourage those with an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask kids to imagine the greatest, coolest, best-ever party they can think of. The sky's the limit!
- Give each child an invitation.
- Encourage them to think about:
  - FOR: What is the occasion? (*birthday party, Christmas party, etc.*)
  - DATE: When will the party be?
  - TIME: What time of day will the party be held?
  - PLACE: Where will the party be?
- As they're working on their invitations, ask:
  - If you could plan a party anywhere, where would it be?
  - What games would you play at your party or what would people do for fun at your party?

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

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## MOVE

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

## 2. EVERYONE'S IT!

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out in your Small Group area.
- Explain that you will play a version of tag where everyone is "It" and anyone can tag anyone.
- If you are tagged, you must sit down, BUT you can still tag other players from your seated position.
- Remind kids to be very careful not to trip anyone from this seated position.
- The last person still standing wins!
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Whew! That was a fun game because everyone could tag! **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we'll hear about something else that's for everyone!"

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK  
ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



## IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

### BIBLE STORY

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

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**Everyone needs to be forgiven.**

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### \* 1. A PROPER REVIEW

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, bag of plastic coins, backpack, stuffed pig, robe or piece of fabric

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Open the Bible to Luke 15:11-24.
- Select one kid to play the role of the son and one kid to play the role of the father from today's Bible story.
- Let the rest of the kids pick a partner, and pass out one of the props to each pair to help retell the story.
- Make sure each pair understands how their prop relates to the story.
- Read the plot points below from the story as pairs use their props to act it out.
  - 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.

**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.

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**FOUR**

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25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**IMAGINE**

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

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!”

***[Make It Personal] (Tell your few about when you first understood that God sent Jesus so that everyone—including you—could be forgiven.)***

## LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



## PLAY

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

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### 2. GIVING HEARTS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Three paper heart cutouts

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather your group to sit in a circle.
- Select three volunteers to stand outside the circle.
- Give each of those volunteers a heart.
- Explain to the group that these volunteers will be your "Givers."
- Instruct the rest of the group sitting on the floor to hold up one hand and close their eyes.
- While their eyes closed, the Givers will quietly hand out their hearts to three kids of their choosing and return to stand next to you.
- Once all three volunteers return, have the kids open their eyes and let the three with hearts guess who they think gave them the heart.
- If the guesser is correct, they switch places with the Giver. If incorrect, they stay in the circle and that Giver may reveal himself and stay in that position for the next round.
- Play several rounds, allowing as many kids to be the Givers as possible.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"In this game, you had to guess the Giver. What's the key word in the middle of the word 'forgiveness'? Give! How is forgiveness like a gift? When you forgive someone, it's like offering a gift the other person doesn't deserve. Tell me: who needs forgiveness? Yes! **Everyone needs to be forgiven.** Who always forgives? God does! God sent His only Son, Jesus, so that everyone that believes in Him could be forgiven!"

## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



## PLAY

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

### BIBLE STORY

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### 3. VERSE HIDEAWAY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, paper scraps, and pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Instruct two kids to look up Colossians 3:13 and read it aloud to the group.
- As they are reading, write out the verse on the paper scraps—two or three words per scrap of paper. Count the paper scraps.
- When you finish, fold the papers in half and ask the kids to cover their eyes as you hide them around your Small Group area.
- Once all the words are hidden, challenge your kids to find all of the paper scraps and put the verse in order.
- Review their work by repeating the verse together as a group.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“One BIG truth about forgiveness is that everyone needs it! We all mess up. When we do, we can be sure that God will ALWAYS forgive us. Our verse for this month reminds us to forgive because God has forgiven us. If you find yourself refusing to forgive this week, ask God to help you remember that **everyone needs to be forgiven.**”

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

### BIBLE STORY

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### PRAY AND DISMISS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Deflated balloon

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather the kids in a tight circle and ask them if there is anyone they need to forgive this week. (Instruct kids to think about this silently and keep their answers in their minds without saying names aloud.)
- Blow up the balloon with air and hold the end closed.
- Let the air out as you use the dialogue below to talk about why forgiveness is important.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help your group let it go and choose to forgive.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"What might happen if I kept on blowing up this balloon? (Pause.) Yes, it will pop! This balloon is like us when we refuse to forgive and choose instead to stay mad. When we choose to let go of our anger, remembering that **everyone needs to be forgiven**, (let the air out of the balloon) then everyone wins! Let's pray and ask God to help us choose forgiveness this week for everyone!

"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."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share what they've learned that EVERYONE needs today.