

Week of March 29

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing

Bible Story: "I don't want to miss a thing." Father and older brother • Luke 15:21-32

Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.

Memory Verse: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

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

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Do these activities before you watch the video story

1. MISSING OUT

What You Need:

- Paper
- Marker

What You Do:

- Ask the child(ren) to help out and draw a line of emojis on a piece of paper—from GREAT through MEH to BLECH.
- If possible, use your smartphone's emoji keyboard as a guide.
- Ask them to share the best thing they've ever missed out on (*something great they missed the chance to do*).
- After each kid shares, ask kids to rate each of their experiences from their examples given on the emoji scale on the paper by writing their name underneath the corresponding emoji.

2. MAKE ME LAUGH

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell the kids you are going to tell some jokes, but they have to try not to laugh.
- If there is more than one kid guide them to form a straight line facing you.
- Read the jokes listed below.
- If kids laugh, they are out. The last serious kid standing is the winner.
- Play again and see if the kids have any jokes of their own.
 - 1. Q: What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping? A: A dino-snore!
 - 2. Q: Why did the kid cross the playground? A: To get to the other slide!
 - 3. Q: Why did the cookie go to the hospital? A: Because he felt crummy
 - 4. Q: What did the little corn say to the mama corn? A: Where is the pop corn?
 - 5. Q: How do we know that the ocean is friendly? A: It waves!

- 6. Q: Why can't Elsa have a balloon? A: Because she will let it go
- 7. Q: How do you make an octopus laugh? A: With ten-tickles
- 8. Knock knock! Who's there? Doughnut Doughnut who? Doughnut ask me, I just got here!
- 9. Q: Why did they quit giving tests at the zoo? A: It was full of cheetahs
- 10. Q: What do you call a cow that eats your grass? A: A lawn moo-er!

What You Say:

- “Those were so hilarious! It is so hard being serious when everyone else is laughing and having fun. It almost feels like you are missing out on the joke. **[Transition] Today we are going to watch a video to hear a story that we definitely don't want to miss out on.**”

3. JUST FOR FUN

What you Need:

- 7 containers
- Markers
- Seven pieces of paper
- Tape
- 14 items to toss; 7 of one type, and 7 of another type. (Small balls, rolled up socks, etc.) This activity is for 2 or more people – divided into 2 teams. Each team will get one set of the 7 items.

What You Do:

- Take the paper and markers and spell out FORGIVE, one letter on each piece of paper. Tape the letters onto the containers.
- Form two teams. (If there is only one kid then you can play along.)
- Create a line on the floor with masking tape and have the teams stand behind the line.
- Line up the set of FORGIVE containers, about seven feet from the line.
 - Cups should be set upright and in order so they spell “FORGIVE.”
- Each team tries to toss one of their items into each of the cups.
- If it misses the cup, kids retrieve it while their teammate takes a turn. There should be a continuous flow of tossing items towards the cups as teams try to be the first team to land their item in each of the 7 cups.
- To increase the chaos level, more than one teammate can be tossing an item at a time.

Watch the video Story: <https://vimeo.com/400349581>

After you watch the story

1. BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY: SWEET & SOUR

What you Need:

- Lemon slices or some type of sour candy. (If you do not have those handy, then substitute a type of food that your child doesn't care for – like onions, sauerkraut, etc.)
- Party hat or some sort of item used for a party – (balloon, crepe paper, wrapping paper, etc.)

What You Do:

- Give each child a lemon slice (or food they do not like) and a 'party' item
- Tell them that you are going to read a story and when the story seems "sweet" or positive, they should put on their party hats or hold up whatever party item they have.
- When someone or something in the story seems "sour," they should take off their hats and lick the lemon (or whatever other food you are using).
- Read the "Sweet and Sour Script" listed below out loud, prompting the group as necessary.
- Set aside the props and lead kids in a conversation about the Bible story.

SWEET AND SOUR SCRIPT, BASED ON THE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

- Dad was so happy that his younger son had finally come home that he planned a giant party! He gave his son brand new clothes to replace the rags he'd come home in. He called everyone together to plan a feast. The workers at the farm were making piles of all the best kinds of food—everything they had ever saved for a special occasion. The neighbors were coming from all over when they heard the good news: the younger son was back! He was safe and sound!
- While there was partying and music and food, the older brother came toward the house. He did not come in to the party. He did not eat the food or even dance a little to the awesome beats that were coming from the musicians. He just paced and fumed.
- Dad came out to invite him to the party, maybe to make sure he got his favorite part of the meal, or to tell him that the Cotton-Eyed Joe was next up and they could show the whole town how it's done. Dad was excited to tell his older son, who had grown into his friend, all about the reunion and party that awaited him. It wasn't just a party for their younger brother—it was a party for their whole family.
- But the older brother just started yelling. He didn't even notice the awesome song that started playing or the platters of watermelon that went by on the way to the party. He accused his dad of being selfish and mean—of being an old fool.
- In the middle of a party thrown by the kindest dad who ever lived, the older brother crossed his arms and shook his head and growled that he was the most neglected son on the planet and he was never going to celebrate that his good-for-nothing brother returned.
- So his dad went back to the party, where the games were getting going and the dessert was being served.

- And the older brother? We don't know what happened to him. Maybe he stayed outside and kicked the dirt and pouted.
- But maybe he went up to the buffet line next to his kid brother, tapped him on the shoulder, and told him he had barbecue sauce on his face, just to make him laugh like when they were kids. Maybe he chose not to be sour. Maybe he chose to forgive and not miss out.

What You Say:

"The older brother in our Bible story today was sour! He was bitter and angry, and because of that, he learned that **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.** What did he miss out on? *(the big party with food and fun, seeing his little brother for the first time in a while, sharing his dad's happiness, etc.)* He missed out on so much more than a party. He missed a chance to have a relationship with his brother and to share something special with his dad.

"Have you ever missed out on something because you wouldn't forgive? Maybe you were so mad at your sister for something she said, you sulked the whole time at the park. Or perhaps you sat alone in the lunchroom to get back at your friend and missed out on her mom bringing cookies for everyone." *(Invite kids to share what unforgiveness has cost them.)*

2. APPLY THE STORY #1: "BIBLE STORY EXTENSION"

What You Need:

- Wrapped Candy or other food in a wrapper *(or something else that would be fun for a child to open)*
- cotton balls

What You Do:

- Review the story.
- Ask:
 - What was the father's response to the younger brother's return?
 - How would you describe the older brother when he found out his father threw a party celebrating the younger son's return? *(If necessary, read Luke 15:28-29. Answers could include: angry, bitter, jealous, ungrateful)*
 - What was the older brother missing out on by choosing to hold onto his negative emotions toward his brother?
 - What was the father's response to his older son? *(Luke 15:31)*
- Even though what his younger brother did was wrong, the older son had a choice to make. The older brother could decide to let go of his anger and bitterness or he could hold on to it and decide his younger brother should pay.
- Place a wrapped piece of candy or some other wrapped item in front of each kid and give each kid a cotton ball.
- Give kids time to think of something they may be holding against someone. Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly. Maybe someone flattened a tire on their bike or broke their

favorite toy. Maybe they are angry at someone for not doing what they said they would do. Or prompt kids to think about how the older brother was holding onto his anger and resentment.

- Explain that the cotton ball represents something you're holding against someone.
- Tell kids hold to take the cotton ball in between their palms (like praying hands) and press together as tightly as they can.
- While holding the cotton ball in between both hands and pressing it flat so that no one can see the cotton ball, challenge kids to unwrap the candy using **only** their hands.
- After they have attempted to open the candy (or package), tell kids to open their hands so the cotton ball is resting on their palms.

What You Say

- “Just like you cannot grab onto the candy while focusing on squeezing the cotton ball, when you are holding on to grudges and focusing on how you may have been wronged, you could miss out on a lot. (e.g. *friendships, good times with others, joy, a party [like the older brother missed out on], etc.*)

3. APPLY THE STORY #2: “BLOCKING FUN” (FOR TWO OR MORE PEOPLE)

What You Need:

- Large stackable items such as Mega Bloks®, LEGO® blocks, or books
- Music

What You Do:

- Set out your stackable items and have the kids pair up (if there is only one child than you can play along with them).
- One partner will hold their arms straight out in front of them while the other partner stacks blocks onto their arms. Stack the blocks not too heavy, but heavy enough to where it is a little tricky to move.
- Play some music and tell the kids holding blocks to try and dance.
- Give them a few minutes to try and dance holding the blocks.
- Switch partners and give them a chance to stack the blocks and dance.

What You Say:

“It is kinda tricky to hold the blocks and dance at the same time, right? In our story today, the older brother couldn't celebrate forgiveness because he was too busy holding things against his younger brother. It is just like the older brother was holding lots of heavy blocks so they got in the way of him celebrating! When we choose to forgive others, it is like dropping all of this heavy weight. When we choose not to forgive, the heavy stuff keeps us from celebrating or simply having a good day.

“Let's think about some times this might happen to us. Maybe you're so mad that your little brother tore up your favorite book that you scream at him, get in trouble with your parents, and miss out on a play date with your best friend. Or maybe you're so upset that your mom forgot she had a meeting when she had promised you would have family movie night tonight, and you spend the whole evening pouting and thinking mean thoughts about her instead of simply enjoying spending time with the rest of your family. Or what if you don't get that really expensive gift you wanted for your birthday, so you

refuse to play with the toys you DID get and won't talk to anyone at your party? Remember that **[Bottom Line]** when you don't forgive, you miss out."

4. MEMORY VERSE REVIEW: "MEMORY VERSE RELAY"

What You Need:

- paper
- scissors

What You Do:

- Write the memory verse phrases listed below, each onto a strip of paper. Make two sets if you have enough people to make two teams.
- Have the teams line up on one side of the room/area. Lay the verse strips for each team out on the floor on the other side of the room.
- Choose a motion for the kids to do to retrieve their strips one at a time and bring them back to their home base
 - Crab walk
 - Hop on one foot
 - Somersault
 - Skip
 - If you have at least 2 people on each team, you can choose 3 legged race or wheelbarrow (one child on the floor "walks" with their hands while their partner is walking behind them holding their feet.)
- Once a team has all the pieces, they have to put the verse together. The first team to put their verse together wins!
- If you have time, play again and change the way they move to get the phrases.

Phrases:

- Bear with
- one another
- and forgive one another
- if any of you
- has a grievance
- against someone.
- Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- Colossians 3:13, NIV

What You Say:

"Great job working together to put the verse together! When you have to work together with someone else to get something done, or even when you're playing a game, sometimes the other person might do something that makes you not accomplish your task or even lose a game. When that happens, we need to remember to forgive. Say the verse with me. *Bear with one another and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you, Colossians 3:13 (NIV).*

When things happen that we don't like, we need to forgive. Because **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

5. BIBLE STORY RECAP FOR THE MONTH: FORGIVENESS RECAP

What you Need: Prepared box or large bag with the following items inside:

- a coin
- some type of food or play food
- a shoe
- a picture of a pig (or toy pig if you have one. You can also have the kid draw a picture of a pig)
- some type of party item (balloon, party hat, wrapping paper, crepe paper),
- Bible

What You Do:

- All month long at Messiah Kids we have been learning about "Forgiveness". Listed below are the different bible stories we have covered this month that talk about forgiveness. If your child does not remember the story, the verses are listed below so that you can do a little review with them before the activity.
 - **The unmerciful servant** – ask your child if they remember the bags of popcorn – 10,000 talents! (Matthew 8:21-35)
 - **Zacchaeus** – ask your child if they remember what Zacchaeus' job was, and where he was when Jesus saw him. (Luke 19:1-10)
 - **Taking the first step to forgive** – ask your child if they remember the stack of boxes that became the wall in between us and the person that wronged us (or between us and the person that we hurt) - who is going to be the first to knock down the boxes? (Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24)
 - **The prodigal son** – our story from last week (Luke 15:11-24)
 - **The brother of the prodigal son** – our story from this week (Luke 15:21-32)
- Have the kids pull one item at a time out of the box in the middle to try and remember all of our stories from this month.
 - **Coin:** The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 8:21-35). In the story, the king forgave all the servant owed him and asked for nothing in return, just like God forgives us. **Bottom Line: Forgive others because God forgives you.**
 - **Pretend Food:** Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). Zacchaeus was not a very nice man. When Jesus came to his town, Jesus wanted to go to his house for dinner. People were so shocked that Jesus wanted to eat with a man who was so mean. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his mistakes and changed his heart. Zacchaeus went on to change the people around him by giving them all of their money back. **Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.**
 - **Shoe:** Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness (Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24) Jesus talked about how we should go to our friends first to work on forgiveness before we do anything else. **Bottom Line: Take the first step to forgive others.**
 - **Pig:** The Story of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-24). The son in this story decided to leave his home and spend all of his money on silly things. He ended up sitting with the pigs

because he did not make the best choices. He returned home to find his dad so excited that he was home. The dad forgave his son even though he made some mistakes, just like God forgives us. **Bottom Line: Everyone needs to be forgiven.**

- **Party item:** Father and Older Brother (Luke 15:21-32). After the son returned home, the dad wanted to throw a huge party. The older brother was not very happy about it and was almost going to miss out on the celebration. He learned that he should be happy that his brother returned home and asked for forgiveness. **Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.**

What You Say:

"Which of these people we've talked about this month do you think was the most thankful to be forgiven? *(There is no right answer to this. Simply encourage the kids to share their thoughts.)* I think they were all SUPER thankful to be forgiven! I'm always thankful to be forgiven, too. Aren't you?"

"We learned so much this month about forgiveness. It is important for us to ask for forgiveness, forgive others, and celebrate forgiveness. Sometimes it takes hard work and time to forgive those around us, but remember our story today taught us that **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

6. PRAYER

What You Can Say:

"Let's pray and thank God for all that He does for us and then we can celebrate! Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us no matter what and teaching us to forgive others. We love You so much. Amen!"

"It is so amazing that God forgives us, and I think it's also amazing that He gives us the ability to forgive others. This week, remember **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

7. GOD TIME PAGES

Throughout the week, use the activities on the God Time pages to reinforce the story.