

PARENT GUIDE — 1ST-3RD

WEEK OF MARCH 22



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

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven.

Use this guide to help your family stay connected, and to keep learning what God says about forgiveness.

First, watch this video <https://bit.ly/2TYwxKg> to hear God's truth in a way your kid can understand and enjoy. Then, follow up with the fun activities below!

ACTIVITY: STORY PROPS

WHAT YOU NEED: a pillowcase and as many of the following items as you can find (*let everyone help with gathering items*): coins/pretend coins/play money, backpack, sleeping bag, stuffed animal pig (or other barnyard-type animal), sandals or flip flops, pretend jewelry ring, robe

WHAT YOU DO: Put all of the items in a pillowcase. Have each family member take turns pulling an item out of the pillowcase and describing how that item fits into today's Bible story. Or if you're feeling super creative, use the items to ACT OUT the story with your family! If you have a family pet, let them play the part of the pigs! To guide you, the main story points are below:

- A father had two sons. The younger of the 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.

Ask your kids: Why do you think Jesus told this story? How does God, our heavenly Father, act like the father did in this story? (Adults, you can answer this question too!)

Tell your kids: It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done, **everyone needs to be forgiven!**

When you're finished, make cleanup a game. Divide the items evenly among all family members. Challenge everyone to see how quickly they can put their items back where they belong and return to the spot you're standing in now. Ready...GO!!!

PRAYER

"God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We know that at some point in life, EVERYONE needs to be forgiven. We don't want to stay angry or blow up and do something unkind. Help us to choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."