

## 1. Just for Fun

*Made to play: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** markers, butcher paper, tape, pipe cleaners or make tails out of rolled up paper strips, bandana or eye mask

### **What You Do:**

- Tape a large piece of butcher paper on the wall.
- Using a pink marker and draw a large pig on the paper. Be sure to omit the pig's tail.
- Play a game of "Pin the Tail on the Pig."

### **To play:**

- Gather kids to stand about 10 feet from the pig.
- Give kids a pipe cleaner with tape on the end.
- Blindfold kids one at a time, spin them around 2-3 times, and let them try to tape their tails on the pig in the right location.
- The kid who tapes the tail closest to the correct spot on the pig wins.
- While waiting for their turn, kids can bend their pigtails to give them different shapes, e.g. curly.
- Parents have a go too!

## 2. Balancing Act

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Prepared tape lines on the floor

**What You Do:**

Kids will take turns walking on the lines and trying to balance without touching the floor where there's no tape. After kids have each had a turn, make it harder by challenging them to hop on one foot or jump along the lines.

**What You Can Say:**

"That was hard balancing on the lines. Sometimes you fell off or made a mistake. You and I make mistakes all the time—sometimes every day—just like the son in our story today made mistakes. Was he forgiven by his dad? (Pause.) Was he forgiven by God? (Pause.)

"We can also be forgiven when we make mistakes. Can you tell me about a time when someone forgave you?"

(Encourage kids to share some stories about

times someone forgave them. They may need some prompting. Maybe a parent forgave them for yelling mean things or for being disobedient. Or perhaps a friend forgave them when they accidentally broke the friend's toy.) It's such a great feeling when someone forgives us, isn't it? And it's also a great feeling when we forgive someone else. Let's remember that the next time we need to forgive someone. [Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven—and that includes you and me!"

## 3. 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:** 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.
- Parents can also play a part.
- Read the plot points below from the story 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.

**[Bottom Line]**

“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!”

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

## 4. Pray

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity] Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

**What You Need:** Deflated balloon

### **What You Do:**

- Gather your family in a tight circle and ask them if there is anyone they need to forgive this week.
- 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 you let it go and choose to forgive.

### **What You Can 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 [Bottom Line] 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."