

PARENT GUIDE

ELEVATE (K-3) – 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)

ACTIVITY: A PROPER REVIEW

WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

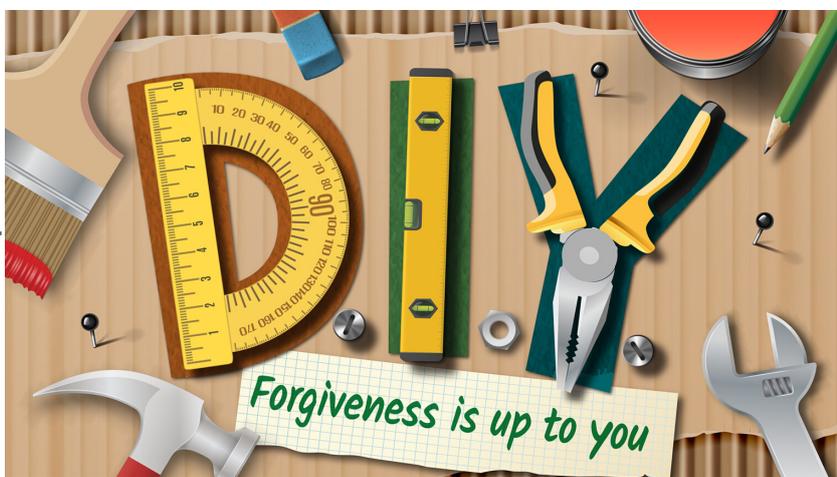
What You Do:

- Write (or print) the following parts of the story down on paper. Then divide the pieces of paper and scramble them up for kids to put in order from memory:
 - 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.

Once they are done, open the Bible and read Luke 15:11-24 to review if the story was placed in order correctly.

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. 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!”



DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- What is one way you responded this week when you've done something wrong?
- When has someone forgiven you? Encourage kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?

ACTIVITY: COMPLETE THE VERSE

Review the Memory Verse with your kids by playing a fun game of complete the verse! Here's what you'll do:

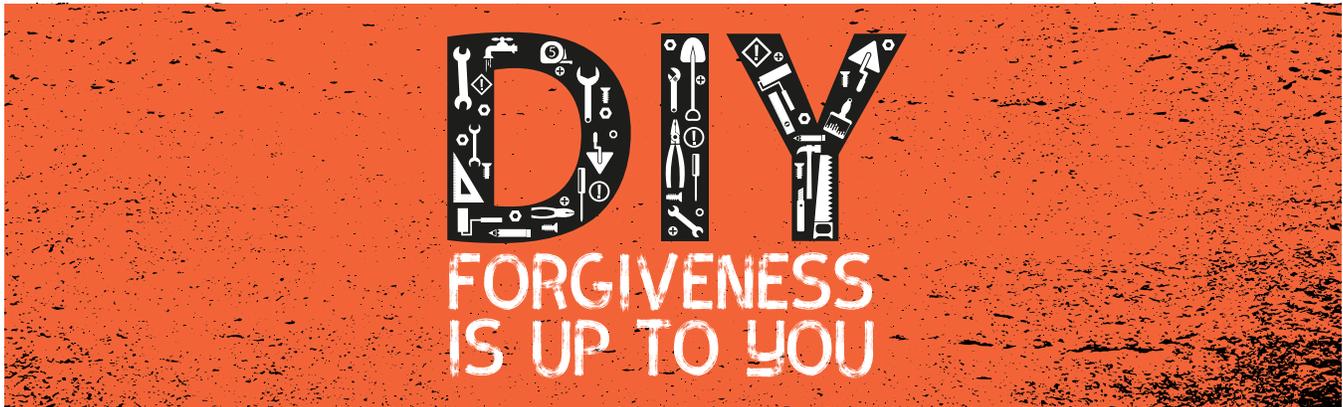
- Say "PUT UP WITH" and pause to have kids say the next three words, this will last until you get to Colossians 3:13!
- Continue the game by switching the words you leave out. Doing this helps kids have the Word planted in their hearts.

PRAYER

“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.”

PARENT GUIDE — PRETEENS (Rookies Yr 4-6)

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, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

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/3d5jH4d> to hear God’s truth in a way your kid can understand and enjoy. Then, follow up with the fun activities below!

ACTIVITY: PIN THE TAIL ON THE PIG!

WHAT YOU NEED: paper, pencils, tape, ribbon/pipe cleaner/long skinny strip of paper, blindfold/bandana/eye mask

WHAT YOU DO: Use the Pig Drawing instructions on the next page to draw a pig, making it as large as possible on the paper. Tape the pig drawing to a wall. Then, make the pig tails: take a ribbon, pipe cleaner, or long skinny strip of paper and curl it around the pencil tightly enough that it stays curly when the pencil is removed. Attach a piece of tape to the end. Play a couple rounds of “pin the tail on the pig.” Blindfold one person (or have them put their hands over their eyes) and spin them around a couple times. Point them in the direction of the pig drawing on the wall, and let them slowly walk toward it and tape their “pig tail” where they think it should go.

Depending on how many people are in your family, you could let everyone pin two tails on the pig. Whoever gets closest is the winner!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- The story of the father and his two sons is called a parable. What’s a parable? (*A parable is a story used to teach something; Jesus frequently told parables to make His point.*)
- Look up the Bible story in Luke 15:11-24, if needed, and encourage your preteen to retell you today’s story.
- Ask:
 - How can we sometimes be like the younger son?
 - How is the father like God? What is Jesus teaching us about God’s forgiveness in this parable?
 - What is one way you usually respond when you’ve done something wrong?
 - When have you been forgiven for something?

PRAYER

“God, thank You for giving us this story to help us understand how you always forgive us because you want to have a relationship with us. Forgive us when we do things that break our relationship with you and with the people in our lives. Help us also to forgive those around us when they do things that break our relationship with them. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

