



Activities To Do At Home

To go with March 29 Elementary Lesson



- 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:** *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)*
- Life App:** Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay
- Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Blocking the Fun [Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Large blocks, boxes or books

What You Do:

- Set out your stackable items and invite your kids to pair up (parents can pair up with kids too).
- One partner will hold their arms out while the other partner stacks blocks (or whatever you're using) 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.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell a child-appropriate story about a time when you missed out on celebrating because you didn't forgive. Share about how that made you feel and how you eventually came around.)

Verse to Take with You [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles, FORGIVE letters (below), paper cups, balloons, markers/pencils, a table, slips of paper

What You Do:

- Cut apart the letters from the FORGIVE page. Place the letters on the table in a line to spell FORGIVE (you can tape them down if you want) and place one cup on top of each letter. You can play as a group or play against each other.
- Ask: What could you miss out on if you choose not to forgive someone, to hold a grudge, or to get even with someone who has wronged you?
- Have kids to write their answers on a slip of paper (one answer per paper).
- Discuss the answers.
- Tell kids to put their paper slips into a cup (it doesn't matter how many slips are in each cup). Place the cups in a row on a table, close to the edge with the letters facing out and spelling FORGIVE. (If you don't have a table, use another elevated surface such as a chair. Or use the floor, but avoid "fluffy" carpet.)
- Kids are going to take turns trying to knock off the "grudges" to reveal what you "don't want to miss."

To race:

- Give each kid an uninflated balloon. (You may want them to write their names or initials with a sharpee on their balloon so if they get to try again they get their balloon back or make sure they each have a different color).
- When you say "GO," kids blow up their balloon.
- Pointing the "valve" end at the cups, kids release the air, trying to knock the cups off the table.
- Kids cannot touch the cups with the balloon itself or with their body.
- The one who knocks off the most cups wins. Or kids can take turns and time them. The one with the shortest time to knock them all off wins.
- For a visual, go to: <http://bit.ly/2qy8B4l>
- After playing a couple of rounds, take out the Bible.
- Look up Matthew 22:39 and read it together.

Ask:

- How can forgiveness show others you love God?
- How can forgiveness show others God loves them?
- What opportunities can you miss out on when you choose not to forgive?
- Tell kids to write the verse reference, Matthew 22:39 on a card.
- Encourage them to write out the verse directly from the Bible, or paraphrase it on a piece of paper.
- Challenge them to memorize the verse and place their papers somewhere as a reminder that forgiveness is important to God.

