

**Bible Story:** Please Forgive Me (The Story of the Lost Son) • *Luke 15:11-24*

**Bottom Line:** Everyone needs to be forgiven.

**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 can trust God no matter what.

## K&1<sup>st</sup>

The son in our story made some bad decisions, but he still came back to his father to ask for forgiveness. What did the father do when he came back? (*He threw a party!*) The story today reminds us that even when we make really big mistakes, **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**

“What are some things that kids your age might need to be forgiven for? (*Encourage responses, such as: telling a lie, disobeying my parents, yelling at my brother for messing up a video game, using my sister’s stickers without asking, etc.*) Those are the kind of things we all do sometimes, and they’re things we need to ask forgiveness for. Some of those things might also be done TO us, and we need to forgive the other person, even if we’re angry and even if they don’t ask for forgiveness.

“We can also be forgiven when we make mistakes. Can you tell me about a time when someone forgave you? (*Encourage your 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.

## 2<sup>nd</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup>

“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.

What’s the key word in the middle of the word ‘forgiveness’? Give! How is forgiveness like a gift? When you forgive someone, it’s like offering a gift the other person doesn’t deserve. Tell me: who needs forgiveness? Yes! **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.** Who always forgives? God does! God sent His only Son, Jesus, so that everyone that believes in Him could be forgiven!”