



## PRETEEN (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade) | AT-HOME ACTIVITIES WEEK OF MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Bible Story** | I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Older Brother) • Luke 15:21-32

**Key Question** | What do you lose if you don't forgive?

**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, NIV

**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.

After watching the worship and So & So Show video together, have fun with your kid while doing the following activities that reinforce this week's Bottom Line.

If you have other kids at home, you can get the whole family involved!

Download the *Parent Cue App* for additional activities and conversations for engaging with your kid throughout the week.

### TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**What You Need:** 6 cups; 12 sticky notes (or paper and tape); pens; table; uninflated balloon (or straws); notecards or scrap paper

**What You Do:**

- Ask: What are things people do when they hold a grudge? (*silent treatment, trash talk, be angry or be bitter, post negative stuff on social media, spend time plotting ways to get even, etc.*) Write each example on a sticky note and stick each one to a cup.
- 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? Write answers on a sticky note (one per note). Place these sticky notes in a row on a table, close to the edge. Cover the sticky notes on the table with the cups.
- (*cont. on next page*)

- Play a game where the goal is to knock off the “grudges” to reveal what you “don’t want to miss.” To race: Give everyone an uninflated balloon. When you say “GO,” blow up the balloons. Pointing the “valve” end at the cups, release the air, trying to knock the cups off the table. The first team to knock off all the cups wins.
- After playing a couple rounds, look up Matthew 22:39 and read it together. Ask: How can forgiveness show others that you love God? How can forgiveness show others that God loves them?
  - o Have everyone write the verse reference on a notecard. Challenge each other to memorize the verse and place your card somewhere as a reminder that forgiveness is important to God.

### **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION**

**What You Need:** Bibles; wrapped candy or other snack; cotton balls

**What You Do:**

- Review the story. Ask:
  - o What was the father’s response to the younger brother’s return?
  - o How would you describe the older brother when he found out his father threw a party celebrating the younger son’s return? *(If necessary, read Luke 15:28-29. Answers could include: angry, bitter, jealous, ungrateful)*
  - o What was the older brother missing out on by choosing to hold onto his negative emotions toward his brother?
  - o What was the father’s response to his older son? *(Luke 15:31)*
  - o Even though what his younger brother did was wrong, the older son had a choice to make. He could decide to let go of his anger and bitterness or he could hold on to it and decide that his younger brother should pay.
- Place a wrapped piece of candy and a cotton ball in front of your child. Give him/her some time to think of something they may be holding against someone. *(Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly; flattened a tire on their bike or broke their favorite toy; are angry at someone for not doing what they said they would do.)*
- Explain that the cotton ball represents something you’re holding against someone.
- Tell your child to hold on to the cotton ball with both hands and squeeze as tightly as they can. While squeezing the cotton ball with both hands, challenge them to unwrap the candy using only their hands *(they won’t be able to)*.
- Just like you cannot grab the candy while focusing on squeezing the cotton ball, when you are holding on to grudges and focusing on how you may have been wronged, you could miss out on a lot. *(e.g. friendships, good times with others, joy, a party [like the older brother missed out on], etc.)*

### **PRAYER ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Cotton balls from “Bible Story Extension” activity

**What You Do:** Remind your child of the activity where they held onto cotton balls and couldn’t open their candy. Ask them to think about a time when they held a grudge toward someone. Pray with your child.

**What You Say:** “God, Thank You for Your forgiveness and Your love. God, please give us Your power and Your strength to forgive others. Help us to let go of anything we may be holding against others so we don’t miss out on the joy of Your forgiveness. Amen!”