

# Please Forgive Me

**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 (NIV)*

**Life App:** Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## 1. Story Board

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What you Need:** Construction paper, crayons, large piece of butcher paper, tape

### What You Do:

- Pair up the kids.
- Give each pair a piece of construction paper.
- Assign each pair a part of the story to draw:
  1. The father gave the son all of his inheritance.
  2. The son left home and spent all his money.
  3. The son ended up eating with pigs.
  4. The son decided to go back home. The father saw his son coming home and ran toward him to give him a hug.
  5. The son asked for forgiveness.
- Give kids time to draw their part. Remind them of what happened if needed.
- While kids are drawing, tape the butcher paper on the wall or create space to lay it on the floor.
- Once all of their drawings are finished, call on the group that drew part one.
  - Tell kids to explain their part of their story. You might need to prompt them by asking questions about details from the story and/or things you see in their drawing.
  - Give kids a piece of tape so they can put their drawing on the butcher paper.
- Continue with each pair, as they tape their pictures in order on the butcher paper.

### What You Say:

“Great job working together and putting all of our story pieces together. 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. **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.**"

**[Make It Personal]** *(Tell about a child-appropriate time when you made the decision to forgive someone even when it was hard. Tell how that grew your relationship with God.)*

## 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:** 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 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 anyone 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. Memory Verse Toss

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body.*

**What You Need:** Beach ball (or any other type of ball) with part of the memory verse written on it, Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Help kids look up Colossians 3:13 in their Bibles.
- Say the verse together.
- Then say just the last sentence of the verse together several times.
- Show kids that the sentence they just said is written on the beach ball.
- Play a game with the ball:
  - Toss the ball to one kid, who catches it with both hands.
  - He looks at the word his right thumb is touching (or the word closest to it) and says it aloud. (Assist as needed.)
  - The whole group then says the entire sentence together. When they come to the word the kid said, they shout it and jump as high as they can.
  - If the ball drops, everyone says the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.**

#### What You Say:

“That was so fun! This verse will help us remember that **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven** because God forgives us! He forgives us when we sin—or do things that go against what His Word tells us to do or not do. And He wants us to forgive others when they do things against us. Can you tell me about a time you forgave someone? Don’t say their name—just quickly tell us what happened and how you responded. *(Allow kids to share stories as time allows.)* Those were some great stories. Let’s all remember to forgive others because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.**”

## Pray

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Beach ball from the “Memory Verse Toss” activity

#### What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Roll the ball to kids in the circle and have the kids repeat the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven.**
- Close with the prayer below.

#### What You Say:

“Dear God, You are so amazing and wonderful. We thank You for forgiving us when we sin against You. Help us to also forgive others when they sin against us because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven.** We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.

“Tell me one more time: Who needs to be forgiven? **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven!** That’s right. Let’s remember that as we go about our week. I’m sure each one of us will need to forgive someone this week. So let’s forgive, just as God forgives us.”