

MARCH THEME
FIX IT UP

BIBLE STORY

Luke 15:11-24 (25-32)

Dude, Where's My Son? | The
Prodigal Son

Spark Story Bible | pg. 378-383

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven, even
me

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

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **FORGIVENESS** and God's character, as shown
through God's big story

This WEEK: We continue our look at forgiveness with one of Jesus' most well known
parables. In **Luke 15:11-24 [plus 25-32 to finish out the story]**, Jesus talks about a kid
who thinks he's got it all together. He demands half of his dad's money and takes off
to spend it on himself. It's only when the money is gone he realizes he's made a **HUGE**
mistake and needs forgiveness. He's got just one hope: that his dad will let him come
home and be a servant.

Bottom Line: **Everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** Realizing one's need for
forgiveness is a huge step for anyone. But through Jesus' story, we hope kids realize
that everyone needs forgiveness, even them.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to
experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might
visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help each of you see where you could ask
for forgiveness and that you would have the courage to do so.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Engage kids in conversation. Use the questions below to facilitate discussion.
—What are things everyone needs?
—Does everyone need school? Why or why not? What about sleep? Or transportation?
What about a clock? What about sunlight?
—Encourage kids to explain their answers.

•• **EVERYONE!**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Make sure everybody is sitting around the table and remove any extra chairs. Have
one person stand up and remove that chair as well.
- Tell the group that you are going to play a game called "Everyone!" The person
standing must make an "Everyone" statement that is true of themselves, like "Everyone
with sneakers on." Then everyone who is wearing sneakers must get up and find a new
spot—including the person who made the statement!
- The kid left without a seat gives the next statement.

- Kids will probably need help coming up with “Everyone” statements. Be prepared to give them some category hints to help if they get stumped:

Sports (“Everyone who plays soccer” or “Everyone who owns a basketball”)

Hobbies (“Everyone who plays the piano” or “Everyone who loves to dance”)

Food (“Everyone who loves chocolate ice cream” or “Everyone who hates spaghetti”)

Places (“Everyone who has been to Disney World” or “Everyone who has been to the zoo”)

Family (“Everyone with a brother” or “Everyone who has a grandparent living in Minnesota”)

Animal (“Everyone with a dog for a pet” or “Everyone who loves dolphins”)

What You Say: “That was fun! In our game today, everyone who had something in common with the kid standing had to get up and move! But if you didn’t have that in common with the person standing, you had to stay seated. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we’ll hear/we heard about something that truly is for EVERYONE!**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

- **RESCUED!** *(application activity / review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “Bible Story Cards”, “Sum It Up Cards”, Bibles

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams. Give each team a set of “Bible Story Cards,” and a set of “Sum It Up Cards.”
- Teams work together reading the verses on the “Bible Story Cards” in their bibles and matching them up with the “Sum It Up Cards.”
- When teams are finished, review their answers. See if everyone got the same pairings.
- Discuss the “Sum It Up Cards.”
 - What is sin? *(disobeying God)*
 - What does it mean to hit rock bottom? *(when you realize you need to be rescued)*
 - What is confession? *(admitting your wrongdoing)*
 - What is forgiveness? *(deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay; a gift from God so, even though we sin, we have God’s forgiveness and can be with God now and forever in heaven)*

What You Say: “This story is for everyone, because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me** and even you. Jesus tells this story to us to show us how we can be forgiven and live with him now and forever. Just like the son in the story, there are times we disobey God; we SIN. Maybe you say hurtful things, maybe you say you will do one thing and you do another thing instead. Perhaps you don’t end up eating pig food, but if you were mean to someone maybe the relationship is now broken, or if you lied maybe the people you lied to don’t trust you now. You may not actually hit rock bottom, but you realize the consequences of your sin and you know you disobeyed God and need to be rescued; you need God’s forgiveness. And here is the amazing part of the story! You confess you are a sinner and, like the son in our story today, you receive God’s forgiveness! God forgives you!” **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about one of the times you needed and received forgiveness. If you can, use the “Sum It Up Cards” to share your story.)**

●● **FORGIVENESS Pictionary** (*application activity*)

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Grab a piece of paper and a pen. Ask the kids to quickly name some things they might get in trouble and need forgiveness for and write them down.
- Choose one kid to draw something he might get in trouble and need forgiveness for. Give him a piece of paper and a pen. He can draw an object, a situation, a place, etc.
- Let the rest of the group try to guess the scenario. The person who most closely guesses the object or situation gets to draw next. (*If a kid has already had a turn, he can pick someone else who hasn't had a turn yet.*)
- If a kid gets stumped and can't think of a scenario, select one from the list the group made and whisper it to him.

What You Say: "The point of this activity is to help you see that ALL of us mess up. We all do things that we need forgiveness for because we're not perfect. **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** We need forgiveness every day. And I'm SO glad that God knows what we need and that God offers forgiveness when we ask for it!"

●● **FORGIVENESS TOSS** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: "Verse Cards" activity page, empty small group bin, masking tape

What You Do:

- Divide kids into two teams.
- Set your emptied small group bin on the floor and tape a line about six feet from the bin.
- Tell one kid from each team to stand on the tape. His team members should stand behind him.
- Give each team a set of "Verse Cards." Make sure each team gets a different colored set of cards.
- Let teams compete to toss their cards into a basket. The first team to get all their cards in the basket wins.
- The rules are:
 - Kids must say the words on their card before tossing it.
 - If they miss, they must pick up their card, hand it to the team member behind them, and go to the back of their line.
 - The kid in front now says the words on the card and tries tossing it into the bin.
 - If the first kid makes a basket, he goes to the end of the line and the next kid tries with the next card.
 - Kids must be standing on the tape when they toss their card into the bin.
 - Continue until one team has all of their cards in the bin.

What You Say: (*Say the verse together as a group.*) "This verse is an important reminder for us that **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me** and even each of you. None of us are perfect. We do things that hurt other people; sometimes we carelessly speak without thinking how our words might affect others; sometimes we make wrong choices and the consequence affects the people around us. We all mess up. But God wants us to put up with one another; we should support each other. Sometimes, in order to put up with one another, you need to forgive someone, and you need to decide that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. Forgiveness is not always the easy choice, but it is a wise choice."

Additional Discussion Questions

- How do you think realizing we are sinners and realizing we need to be rescued affects our relationship with God?
- Why do you think we need to confess our sins to God?
- Is it easier to confess some sins than others? Why? What might keep someone from confessing their sins?
- Over time, how might unconfessed sins affect your life, your heart, your relationship with God and others? Is it ever too late to confess your sins? Why or why not?



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

MARCH
12/15
2017

GRADE 4-5

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

-- NOTES --

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to pray:
 - Thank God that God does what God says God will do and we can trust God no matter what.
 - Give kids time to silently confess to God the sins they need to ask forgiveness for.
 - Thank God for God's forgiveness.
 - Ask for God's help to remember everyone needs to be forgiven.

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.

Challenge kids to teach their family the memory verse (Colossians 3:13) this week.