



PRAY:

Before you start, take a moment to pray together. Thank the Lord for His presence with you. Pray for each other, for extended family, for friends, for teachers, for anybody else who comes to mind. Pray for strength and health in our community.

But most of all, pray for those who need to know the forgiveness of Jesus. Pray for your kids...that they would understand this truth today.

THE BIG IDEA:

FORGIVENESS -
Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

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

Bible Activity: A PROPER REVIEW

1. WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, bag of coins (or monopoly money), backpack, stuffed pig (or some other stuffed animal), robe (bathrobe will do!), ring, slippers (or proper sandals)

2. WHAT YOU DO:

- Pick family members to play the roles of the younger son and the father from today's Bible story.
- Read Luke 15:11-24 and use the props to act it out the following points:
 - The younger of two sons asked his father for his share of the inheritance.
 - The father gave the money to his son
 - The son packed up and left home for a faraway country.
 - There, the son wasted all his money.
 - The son became so hungry, he took a job caring for pigs.
 - The son decided to return home and beg to be let back in as a servant.
 - The father ran to meet him, gave him a hug, and gave him the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his feet.
 - The father threw a huge party to welcome his son home.

3. EXPLAIN: 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? (He forgave him!)

OPEN DISCUSSION – for the whole family (that means you too, adults in the room!)

- 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.)
- How do you respond when you do something wrong?
- Can anyone tell me about a time when someone forgave you? How did it feel to be forgiven?
- How did it feel after you forgave someone else?

REMEMBER: Everyone needs to be forgiven. The good news for us is that God LOVES each one of us. He loves us SO much that He sent Jesus, His only Son. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, the stuff that separates us from God.