



# DIY

## FORGIVENESS IS UP TO YOU

PARENT CUE / elementary / March 29th

Learn more about what God says about forgiveness with your family. First, watch this video <https://bit.ly/2xoFkMo> Then, follow up with the activity below!

### REMEMBER THIS

“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

### BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Father and Older Brother) Luke 15:21-32

### BOTTOM LINE

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

## ACTIVITY: FORGIVENESS PARTY

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Upbeat music, a fun snack or treat (whatever you have at home!), any party supplies you have on-hand (hats, streamers, decorations, etc.)

### WHAT YOU DO:

Throw a forgiveness party!

The father in today's story was overwhelmed with joy when his son returned, so he threw a massive party. You can also celebrate forgiveness by having a mini-party of your own.

If you don't have party supplies, make some! Make a paper chain, banners, or even your own party hats.

### As you're enjoying your fun snack or treat, engage your family in a conversation about today's Bible story.

\*How did the father react when his son returned? *(He forgave him and threw a huge party to celebrate his son's return.)*

\*Where was the older brother when the younger son returned? *(working in the field)*

\*How did the older brother react when he found out that the party was for his younger brother who'd returned home? *(He was angry.)*

\*Why do you think the older brother was SO mad? Have you ever been mad that someone else got something good that you didn't think they deserved? *(We've probably all felt this way. Help your child understand that feeling this way is okay, but when we hold onto those feelings, we can miss out on great things like celebrations and relationships with people we love.)*

Then, turn up the music, challenge your kid to a dance-off, and enjoy the rest of your party.

## PRAYER

If it makes sense when your party is over, spend some time in prayer. If not, try to pray together as a family some time before bed:

“God, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, no matter what. Thank You for teaching us that when we stay angry instead of forgiving, we can miss out on some incredible experiences. When we feel like holding onto our anger, please help us realize it and let it go. We love You, God. Amen.”



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CUE

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PARENT CUE | PRETEEN | March 29th

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<https://bit.ly/33JeYAV>

Then, follow up with the activity below!

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## BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing  
(Father and Older Brother)  
Luke 15:21-32

## QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

## ACTIVITY: LET IT GO

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Wrapped piece candy or granola bar, cotton balls or small wads of paper

### WHAT YOU DO:

Give your kid a wrapped piece of candy or granola bar and two cotton balls or paper wads. Ask them to think of a time when someone did something to make them mad. (They might not have to think that far back!) Compare this feeling to how angry the older brother was in today's story. Ask your kid to hold a cotton ball in each hand and imagine that the cotton balls represent the thing that made them angry. As they hold onto the cotton balls, ask them to try to unwrap the candy or granola bar. (Of course, they can't do it! But it's fun to let them try.)

Then, tell your kid to let go of the cotton balls and unwrap the candy. Just like you can't unwrap a piece of candy while holding onto cotton balls, you can miss out on something good if you hold onto your anger and refuse to forgive.

While your kid is enjoying their candy or granola bar, spend a few minutes discussing the following:

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

\*Ask your kid to retell you today's story. (Look up Luke 15: 21-32 if they need a reminder.)

\*What is a grudge?

\*What can you miss out on if you don't forgive?

\*What did the older brother miss out on because he stayed angry with his father?

## PRAYER

If it makes sense when you've finished your activity, spend some time in prayer. If not, try to pray together as a family some time before bed:

“God, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, no matter what. Thank You for teaching us that when we stay angry instead of forgiving, we can miss out on some incredible experiences. When we feel like holding onto our anger, please help us realize it and let it go. We love You, God. Amen.”

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