

PARENT GUIDE

ELEMENTARY (K-5) - MARCH 22

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)

"FORGIVE" COMPETITION FAMILY CHALLENGE

Our theme for our elementary kids this month is DIY. This Sunday we have a fun DIY competition for you to do as a family! Use as many kitchen tools as you can to make the word "Forgive". Tag us in your DIY creations! (@GraceKids-Olathe)

ACTIVITY 1: BALANCING ACT WHAT YOU NEED: PENCIL/PEN, MUSIC

Make lines using tape or natural lines in your house (think about edges of carpet or wood planks). 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. Play as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU ASK AFTER: "That was hard balancing on the lines. Sometimes you fell off or made a mistake.

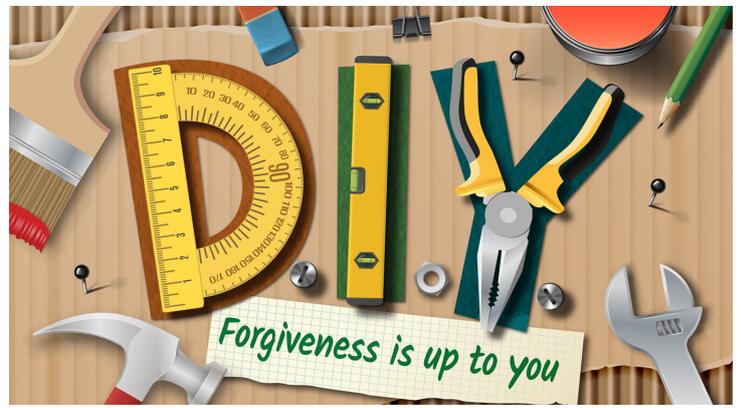
"We can also be forgiven when we make mistakes. Can anyone tell me about a time when someone forgave you? (Encourage kids to share some stories about times someone forgave them. They may need some prompting. Maybe a parent forgave them for yelling mean things or for being disobedient. Or perhaps a friend 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 hear more from our story today about forgiveness.

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STORY

The link to the monthly worship song and Bible Story can be found on Grace Kids-Olathe Facebook Page and www.graceumc.church/children. Click on web link to find the age-appropriate video for you children. (252 for K-3rd, So&So show for 4th-5th.) Bible Story: Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness, Luke 15:11-24.

DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

What is one way you responded this week when you've done something wrong? When has someone forgiven you? Encourage kids to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven. What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?



ACTIVITY 2: A PROPER REVIEW WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

Write (or print) the following parts of the story down on paper. Then divide the pieces of paper and scramble them up for kids to put in order from memory:

- 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.
- Once they are done, open the Bible and read Luke 15:11-24 to review if the story was placed in order correctly.

WHAT YOU SAY: "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.) 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? The father ran to him, hugged him, and forgave him. He was so happy to see him that he threw a big party to celebrate his return. 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. Jesus made a way for EVERYONE to be forgiven! When we believe or trust in Jesus so that we can be forgiven, we can have a friendship with God forever!"

PRAYER

"God, thank You for loving us and for always forgiving us. When we're tempted to stay mad or refuse to forgive, help us to make the wise choice and choose to fix the relationship instead of just being right or making a point. We want to be a good friend and to love others the way You love us. So this week, help us to take the first step to forgive others. We love you. We trust you. Amen."

PARENT GUIDE

EARLY CHILDHOOD – MARCH 15

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me!" Jesus said.

Matthew 4:19

KEY QUESTION & BOTTOM LINE

"Who can you follow?"

I can follow Jesus!

I FOLLOW JESUS

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Since we are staying in this Sunday, have each family member get creative and use a variety of materials (string, cereal, crayons, foil, etc) around the house to make a portrait of themselves following Jesus. Tag us in your DIY creations! (@GraceKids-Olathe)

ACTIVITY 1: MADE TO MOVE

WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Trace your child's feet on 12 pieces of paper. Tape the feet on the floor in a pathway around the room all facing different directions.

SAY: "Let's follow the path! The feet are facing different directions. While you are walking the path be sure to FOLLOW the feet by putting your feet on the feet on the floor." Invite the children to walk the path and face the direction of the feet. Repeat several times.

SAY: "Great job FOLLOWING the path! Today we're going to hear a Bible Story about how people followed Jesus."

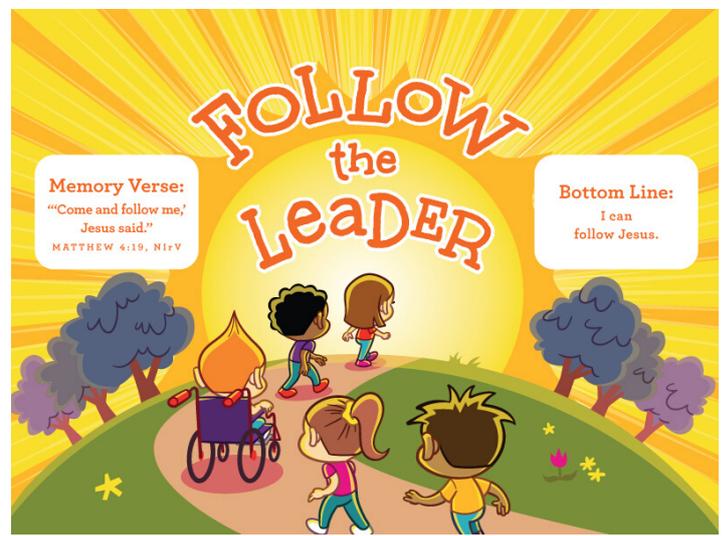
ACTIVITY 2: LET'S COUNT

WHAT YOU NEED: MUFFIN TIN, 12 OF SOMETHING

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather muffin tin and 12 of something (example: M&M's, macaroni, bobby pins, socks, keys, tiny stuffies, Little People.)

SAY: "We have 12 cups in the pan and 12 of (fill in the blank). Let's work together to place one (fill in the blank) in each cup. Let's count the cups together! Practice counting to 12 as you put items in and count to 12 as you take items out.

SAY: "Great job counting to 12! Today we are going to talk about 12 people who followed Jesus!" Lead them in chanting the Bottom Line 'I can follow Jesus!' as you pull up the worship and Bible story video!



Memory Verse:
"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."
MATTHEW 4:19, NIV

Bottom Line:
I can
follow Jesus.

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STORY

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ACTIVITY 3: LEADER BRAINSTORM

WHAT YOU NEED: MARKERS, PIECE OF PAPER

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Write each of the disciples name on a piece of paper (Peter, Andrew, James, John, the other James, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon.) Cut out names and place in a bowl.

SAY: "Today our story was about Jesus' 12 very best friends name the ... what? *Kids say: Disciples!* That's right.. Let's take turns pulling out the names of the Disciples. As we pull each name out, tell me what letter it starts with! *do this activity*."

SAY: "Great job! Let's learn a little more about each of them: Peter and Andrew were brothers. And so were James and John. And all four of these guys were fishermen! Matthew used to be a tax collector. And Judas was in charge of the group's money. There was Simon and the other James who was younger than James the fisherman. And then Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, and Thaddeus. All of these guys did what? *Kids say: FOLLOWED JESUS!*"
SAY: And who can we follow? *Kids say: FOLLOW JESUS!*

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for the leader that Jesus is. Thank you that Jesus shows us how to love God and care for others. Help us to follow Jesus to love God and care for others just like the Disciples did. We love you. We trust you. Amen.