

March 22, 2020

FORGIVENESS: *God's gift to us through Jesus!*



BIG IDEA

Forgiveness is for everyone.

BIBLE STORY

Luke 15:11-24

**REMEMBER
VERSE**

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- **Ephesians 4:32**

BIBLE STORY

PASSION KIDS EXPERIENCE •

When Jesus lived here on earth, crowds of people would follow Him everywhere. Jesus used those opportunities to teach others, because He wanted them to understand God's love and grace. During this time, there was a group of people called the "Pharisees." The Pharisees would get upset that Jesus cared for all people, especially people they felt didn't deserve it. You see, the Pharisees believed that following rules and not making mistakes was the way to God. But we know that isn't true!

In Luke 15, Jesus told the Pharisees a parable to help them understand that God's grace and love are greater than the mistakes we've made. Everyone is equally welcome to receive God's love and forgiveness. Through this story, Jesus wanted the Pharisees and us today to know that "**Forgiveness is for everyone,**" in the same way the son needed forgiveness from his father in this story. Check out Passion Kids Online to learn more!

RESPONSE TIME

STUDYING GOD'S WORD •

Through Passion Kids Online, we learned that, "**Forgiveness is for everyone.**" Grab a bible, and encourage your children to find Luke 15:11-24. Invite your family to take turns reading the verses. Lead them through the following questions:

- Through this story, what is Jesus teaching us about God's forgiveness?
- What happened to the younger son in the story? What about the older son?
- What did the father do when his younger son returned home?
- The father saw his son and had compassion towards him. Where else have we seen the word compassion? (Remember Verse - Ephesians 4:32.) What does compassion mean?
- Who needs forgiveness? Who deserves forgiveness?
- How does the father in this story show us that forgiveness is for everyone?
- Who did God send to show us His love and forgiveness?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross for our sins?
- As a family, discuss what you can do if you have a hard time extending forgiveness to others this week.

PRAYER •

Prayer is when we talk to God directly. Spend time in prayer with your family, asking for any prayer requests. Encourage your children to pray with and for others. To end prayer time today, read **1 John 1:9** with your family.

REMEMBER VERSE ACTIVITY

Materials Needed: none

DO • Invite each family member to make up motions for our Remember Verse, Ephesians 4:32. After everyone has made up motions, each person can recite the Remember Verse while doing the motions they made up!

SAY • Who knows why we spend time remembering Scripture? We spend time memorizing God's Word so that His Word will always be in our hearts. But remember, words in and of themselves do not necessarily change our hearts. It is God's Spirit in the words Who transforms our hearts. We get to know God more when we open our hearts and listen to His Holy Spirit through the words we memorize. Let's each make up some motions to go along with our Remember Verse. After a few minutes, we'll come back together and share our Remember Verse and motions with each other!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Option #1: "Lost and Found"

Materials Needed: each family member's "favorite item"

DO • Prior to the start of the game, invite each family member to bring a favorite item (one that can be hidden somewhere in the house) to the table. Choose one person to hide all of the items while the others close their eyes. Once the items are hidden, invite the family members to go and find their favorite item. When the items are found, bring them back to the table, and have a celebration for what was lost has now been found.

SAY • During Passion Kids Online, we learned about a family. What happened to this family? Was someone in the story lost for a while? What happened when that person was found? How can we respond to this story of forgiveness today?

Option #2: "Let's tell a story!"

Materials Needed: none

DO • Invite your family to gather and sit in a circle on the floor. Then, invite everyone to share one of their favorite stories about your family! There's a catch, though. After someone begins to tell the first few sentences of their story, say, "Stop!" Then, if someone else knows the story, that person can add a few more sentences to the story! Continue around the circle until each person has either had a turn to add to the story or share their own family story.

SAY • What fun stories we told together! Jesus told a lot of stories to help people understand God's love for them. During Passion Kids Online, we heard one of those stories Jesus told. The story was about a family! What did we learn about our Heavenly Father and forgiveness through this story?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Option #3: "It's a Party!"

Materials Needed: something to toss (ball, potato, etc), half sheet of paper (one per family member), and writing utensils

DO • Invite your family to gather around the table. Invite your family into brainstorming a fun party together! As you toss an item around, invite each person to address one of the following questions:

- What is the occasion of the party?
- What time will the party be at?
- Where will the party be?
- What will the party look like?
- What should people wear to your party?
- What are you going to do at the party?

Then, invite everyone to decorate an invitation, based on the party plans you created together. Invite your children to decorate their cards. Once everyone has completed making their invitations, share the invitation cards with one another!

SAY • During Passion Kids Online, we heard about a party that a father planned for one of his sons. What do you remember from the story we read from Luke 15? How does the father in the story show us that, "**Forgiveness is for everyone?**"