

# Alley SG-March 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**Bible Story:** Please Forgive Me (Lost Son) • *Luke 15:11-24*

**Key Question:** When has someone forgiven you?

**Bottom Line:** Everyone needs to be forgiven.

**Memory Verse:** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (*Colossians 3:13 NIV*)

## 1. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Ball Pit Balls (3 per kid), pens, index cards (1 per student), bucket/basket (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- **Encourage** kids to think of examples of things people do that “wrong each other,” things that might need forgiveness.
  - Examples could include: say mean things, cheat on tests, lie, say things about other people we shouldn’t, get angry when we don’t get our way, exclude people, forget to do what we say we will, lose our temper, etc.
- **Give** each kid 3 Ball Pit Balls and **tell** them to write 1-3 examples on an index card.
  - **Suggest** kids pick out a key word for each example, such as: lie, gossip, anger, mean, ignore, etc.
- **Encourage** kids to share their examples with the group.
- **Discuss** the examples.
- **Direct** kids to shoot their Ball Pit Balls into the basket, saying “I will not (*example*)” as they shoot.

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** “Scene Cards” (1 set per group), large cardstock paper (1 per group, per service), markers

### What You Do:

- **Gather** kids around the large cardstock paper.
- **Allow** kids to pick a “Scene Card.”
- **Encourage** kids to draw something representing the scene on the paper.
- As a group, **retell** the story using the pictures kids drew. Make sure everyone’s picture is included in the story line.
- **Ask:** *Tip: Consider asking the questions while kids are drawing.*
  - The story of the father and his two sons is called a parable. What’s a parable? (*a parable is a story used to teach something, Jesus frequently told parables to make His point*)
  - How can we sometimes be like the younger son?
  - How is the father like God? What is Jesus teaching us about God’s forgiveness in this parable?
  - **Facilitate** discussion so the kids have the opportunity to tell the story of God’s forgiveness. Just like the younger son did things that kept him from having a relationship with his father, we do things that keeps us from having a relationship with God. God sent Jesus to make a way for to fix our relationship with God so we have God’s forgiveness and we can be with Him now and forever.
  - **Emphasize** that God’s forgiveness is for everyone and God doesn’t hold a grudge.

## 3. Discussion Questions

- What is one way you respond 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?

- **Encourage** kids to share. *[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share an age-appropriate example of when someone forgave you. Maybe you forgot to meet your friend for lunch like you said you would and your friend didn't hold it against you and simply rescheduled another time to get together. Or you borrowed a tool from a friend and it broke, but your friend didn't make you buy a new one to replace it.)*

#### 4. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** "4GVN Cards" (one sheet per student), scissors, Bibles, pens

**What You Do:**

- **Give** each kid a sheet of "4GVN Cards" (4 cards total on the sheet)
- **Have** them cut out the cards.
- **Give** kids some quiet time to pray. **Suggest** options for ways to spend this prayer time:
  - Talking silently to God
  - Reading Psalm 103:8-12 as a prayer to God  
On your "4GVN Card:"
  - Write God a thank You note
  - Write a prayer with each sentence starting with a letter in the word "FORGIVE."
  - Draw something to represent your prayer
- **Allow** kids to share their prayers with the group if they want to.
- **Encourage** kids to go take the sheet of cards home, and use any cards not completed, to write prayers on in their own personal time with God.

**BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"**

**HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

**IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!**

**EXTRA TIME?:** Using the Ball Pit Balls and Buckets from Activity #1, have a competition to see who can make the most baskets. Each student gets to shoot 3 balls per round. Play as many rounds as time allows.