

CITY – LG March 25-27, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Homecoming (The Story of the Lost Son) • *Luke 15:11-32*

Today's Bottom Line: God will always forgive you.

Monthly 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 (NIV)*

WORSHIP

Standing in Your Light
All of Me

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

“Hey, everybody! I’m glad to see you. This month in the City we’re talking about forgiveness.

SLIDE: Virtue

“**Forgiveness means deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay.**

SLIDE: Theme

“It can be pretty tough to forgive someone when you FEEL like getting even. It’s not easy to give someone a do-over when they’ve messed up or hurt your feelings. But remember, you’re not on your own. God is always there to help you!

Before we get into our Bible Story I want you to circle up in your small group and talk about a question for a few minutes. The question is: **When is it hard to forgive someone?** Think of a time when someone hurt you or made you mad. Why is it hard to forgive them? I’ll give you a few minutes to talk about this in your groups...

(walk around and listen to discussion. Stop after 2-3 minutes)

Play a song on the spotify playlist at a lower volume level

“Who wants to share your answer with the group? When is it hard to forgive someone? *(Listen to a couple of responses)*

“Those are some good answers. Well, for months and months now, we’ve been making our way through God’s Big Story.

“We’ve looked at stories throughout the Bible *(hold up Bible)*—from when God created the world to when God promised to bless the world through Abraham’s family. We’ve seen how God worked in the lives of the Israelite people and brought them out of slavery in Egypt. We’ve seen how God spoke through prophets about the Savior who would come when the time was right.

“God’s Son, Jesus, was born in Bethlehem. When Jesus grew up, He taught amazing things about God and healed people who were sick. Everyone wanted to hear what Jesus had to say!

“Today, we’re looking at another parable Jesus told. You might remember that a parable is a short story that has a lesson we can learn to help us live for God. And in this story, we can discover just how much God loves us and forgives us. Let’s take a look...”

Bible Story Video

“Jesus didn’t tell the crowd what happened next in His story. I wonder if the older brother might have come inside to celebrate with his brother. Or maybe he held onto his anger and stayed outside, alone. We DO know that it was clear from Jesus’ story that God is always there to forgive us. God is like the father in the story. No matter what we’ve done, God is always there to welcome us home.

“This is so important to remember. Let’s take a look at this week’s bottom line...

Bottom Line Video

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God will always forgive you.

“Let’s pray and thank God for loving us.”

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for this incredible story that Jesus told. It makes us feel so happy to know how much You love us! I know all of us can feel like the younger son when we’ve messed up. But You always forgive us like the father in the story. Thank You for the forgiveness You offer us through Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“The reason we can forgive is because we know that God always forgives US. That’s what we read in our memory verse for this month, Colossians 3:13. Let’s say it together.”

SLIDE: 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, NIV)

“Great job! Before we head to Small Group and talk some more about God’s amazing love and forgiveness, let’s take our offering.”

OFFERING:

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

CG: Eli and Mandy

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here’s a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!

Dismiss kids to their small groups.