

## LIFE APP

### FOREGIVENESS

**A promise not to keep  
a record of wrongs  
against someone.**

## MEMORY VERSE

**Put up with each  
other. Forgive the  
things you are holding  
against one another.  
Forgive, just as the  
Lord forgave you.  
Colossians 3:13**

## BOTTOM LINE

**Everyone needs  
forgiveness.**

## PRAYER

**"God, thank You for loving  
us, always. When we do  
something wrong this week  
help us make it right by  
saying we're sorry to the  
person we've hurt AND  
asking them and You to  
forgive us. Thank You for  
choosing to forgive us,  
always. Help us forgive  
others, too. In Jesus' name  
we pray, amen."**

## STORY BOOKS

**Supplies:** Prodigal Son Book, coloring  
supplies

- Give each kid a Prodigal Son book.
- Have the kids color the book.
- Once they finish coloring, read the book with them!

## TALK IT OUT:

"Jesus told this story to make a BIG point about forgiveness. God loves you and me, no matter what. Even when we REALLY mess things up or think we can't be forgiven, God ALWAYS forgives. God's like that loving father, running towards us to say, 'I love you!' We're like those brothers. Sometimes, we make a really unwise choice like the younger brother, and we need to be forgiven. And sometimes, we're like the older brother who wants to stay mad. God chooses to forgive, always. We can always, always tell God we're sorry and know that we'll be forgiven because of God's great, perfect, never-ending love. God will always forgive you."

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## Sticker Scenes

**SUPPLIES:** Prodigal son sticker set

- Give each kid a sticker set.
- Help them assemble as needed.

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## KEEP UP, DROP DOWN

**SUPPLIES:** "Keep Up, Drop Down" Activity Page and inflated balloons

- Explain that you are going to re-tell the story.
- As you read from the "Keep Up, Drop Down" Activity Page, instruct the kids to interact with the balloons based on what's happening with the story.
- When one of the sons is doing something wrong or making an unwise choice, kids let the balloons drop.
- When one of the sons is making a wise choice or asking for forgiveness, kids bop the balloons up.
- Reserve some balloons for the party at the end of the story when ALL balloons should be in the air for the big celebration!
- Read one bullet point at a time from the retelling of the story from the "Keep Up, Drop Down" Activity Page.
- After you read one section of the story, make sure the kids are keeping the balloons up or letting them fall according to what you read.

## WHAT YOU SAY:

"We can learn a lot from the father in our story today! No matter how many bad choices his younger son made, the father was quick to forgive him and welcome him home. That's true for us, too! None of us are perfect, and we all do wrong things. If you ask for forgiveness, God will always forgive you. "If we do something wrong, we don't have to carry around that guilt. Knowing that God will always forgive you can help you fix the relationship and try to make better, more responsible choices in the future."

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**When you forgive others  
it can change them.**

## PRAYER

**"Dear God, we love  
you. Will you help  
us choose to  
forgive and let go  
of our anger. Thank  
you for forgiving us  
first. In Jesus name  
we pray, amen."**

### ZACCHAEUS SAYS

**WHAT YOU NEED :** "Zacchaeus Says" Page

- Tell the group they're going to play a game like "Simon Says" but it's called "Zacchaeus Says"!
- Just like in "Simon Says," kids should only do the actions when you say "Zacchaeus Says" beforehand.
- Direct the kids to act-out the story when you say "Zacchaeus says" before an action.
- Instruct the kids to freeze if you don't say "Zacchaeus says" before an action.
- Before starting the story, go through the actions a couple of times so kids have a general idea of what each action is.
- When ready, retell today's Bible story using the "Zacchaeus Says" Activity Page.
- If any kids do the actions when you haven't said "Zacchaeus says," they're out!
- Continue playing until you're down to one Zacchaeus or you've retold the entire story.
- If all kids are out before the story has been fully told, pick up the story where you left off with everyone "in" and playing again.

### TALK IT OUT:

**"You all did a great job playing 'Zacchaeus Says'! The truth is, once Zacchaeus was forgiven by Jesus, his entire life changed. He once was a rich man who collected taxes, but after Jesus forgave him, he decided to give his money away to those who needed it. He once was an outcast in his community, but once Jesus forgave him, he became a follower of Jesus. And just like we're changed when Jesus forgives us, when you forgive others, it can change them. "When a friend does something wrong to us, it hurts our friendship. Sometimes our feelings are hurt or we feel like we can't trust that person anymore. If someone is hurting you over and over again, please talk to a trusted adult. God put people in your life to help you. But other times, when our friends just mess up or make a bad choice, we can show grace and forgiveness. We can help others feel how good it feels to be forgiven, and that can change peoples' hearts—just like you, me, and Zacchaeus!"**

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## SITTING IN A TREE

**SUPPLIES:** Zacchaeus activity sheets, coloring supplies

- Give each kid a set of Zacchaeus activity cards.
- Allow them to color them however they'd like.

## TALK IT OUT:

"I love the story of Zacchaeus. It's such a fun to picture the scene: a man climbing a tree to see Jesus, Jesus telling him to come down and then inviting him over for dinner! But this is about more than climbing a tree. Jesus knew Zacchaeus had messed up. He had hurt a lot of people. Yet Jesus chose to forgive him! Jesus's forgiveness changed Zacchaeus

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## FORGIVENESS BRACELETS

Supplies: Bracelet materials

- Give each kid the bracelet supplies.
- Allow them to create their bracelets.
- Help them tie them as needed.

## TALK IT OUT:

"Great job on your bracelets! When you look at your bracelet let it be a reminder to always choose forgiveness! The truth is, once Zacchaeus was forgiven by Jesus, his entire life changed. He once was a rich man who collected taxes, but after Jesus forgave him, he decided to give his money away to those who needed it. He once was an outcast in his community, but once Jesus forgave him, he became a follower of Jesus. And just like we're changed when Jesus forgives us, when you forgive others, it can change them.

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**Forgive others because  
God forgives you.**

## PRAYER

**"Dear God, thank you for  
giving us Joseph to show  
us an example of  
forgiveness. When bad  
things happen, help us  
remember to know that  
you have a plan. Help us  
to forgive others the way  
you forgive us. We love  
You. In Jesus name we  
pray, Amen."**

## Head Band

**Supplies:** Joseph headband, coloring  
supplies

- Give each kid a headband.
- Allow them to color them however they'd like.

## TALK IT OUT:

"Joseph's brothers did something terrible, but God used it to teach us a lesson on forgiveness. Joseph trusted God, and God made sure that Joseph was in the right place at the right time to save his family. "God wants us to forgive others because He forgave us! God can turn our difficult things into things that are good, too. It might take time, and we might need to HOLD ON, but God is big enough and amazing enough to work all things for good."

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## PRAYER

“Dear God, thank you for giving us Joseph to show us an example of forgiveness. When bad things happen, help us remember to know that you have a plan. Help us to forgive others the way you forgive us. We love You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”

## GRAIN BAGS

**Supplies:** Grain activity sheet, pom-poms, adhesive

- Give each kid a grain sheet.
- Set out the pom-poms and adhesive.
- Allow them to decorate them however they would like.

## TALK IT OUT:

“Isn’t it so cool that Joseph forgave his brothers? He could have chosen to be angry with them and sent them away hungry, but he held on and pushed through to forgive his brothers. What Joseph didn’t know throughout all of his story is that he was part of a bigger story God was writing—a story to save Joseph’s own family and also the world through Jesus. You can hold on because there’s a bigger story.”

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## Joseph Scene

**Supplies:** Joseph activity scene, coloring  
supplies, double stick tape

- Give each kid a Joseph activity set.
- Allow them to assemble it.

## TALK IT OUT:

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terrible, but God used it to teach us a  
lesson on forgiveness. Joseph trusted  
God, and God made sure that Joseph  
was in the right place at the right time  
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"God, thank You for loving us, always. When we do something wrong this week—say something unkind or do something to hurt someone else—help us make it right by saying we're sorry to the person we've hurt AND asking them and You to forgive us. Thank You for choosing to forgive us, always. Help us forgive others, too. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

## WELCOME HOME

Supplies: Party hats, stickers

- Give each kid a party hat.
- Allow them to decorate the hats with stickers.

## TALK IT OUT:

"We can learn a lot from the father in our story today! No matter how many bad choices his younger son made, the father was quick to forgive him and welcome him home. That's true for us, too! None of us are perfect, and we all do wrong things. If you ask for forgiveness, God will always forgive you. "If we do something wrong, we don't have to carry around that guilt. Knowing that God will always forgive you can help you fix the relationship and try to make better, more responsible choices in the future."

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## PARTY TIME

**Supplies:** Banner activity sheet, string, stickers

- Give each id a banner activity sheet.
- Allow them to decorate them however they would like.

## TALK IT OUT:

“Great job on your banners! When it comes to forgiveness, we probably won’t always feel like forgiving in the moment. But we can push back how we WANT to respond and choose to love and forgive. Plus God will help you forgive if you just ask. You can choose to offer forgiveness to others because when you ask God for forgiveness, God will always forgive you.”

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## WELCOME HOME

Supplies: Slap bracelets, stickers

- Give each kid a slap bracelet.
- Allow them to decorate it with stickers.

## TALK IT OUT:

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