

## K - Grade 4: Story Experience

### March 22: Please Forgive Me

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

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

**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)*

**Life App:** Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

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### Story Experience Outline

As the Story Experience Leader, you win when you engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

#### • **Intro (5 Minutes)**

##### **CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

##### A. *Welcome*

- Hello, everyone! Today we've got a story about siblings—two brothers, to be exact. It's a parable that Jesus told as a way to help people understand something important.
- “As you may remember, Jesus did and said so many things that crowds of people would follow Him everywhere. Most of the time, He'd take care of their needs—He'd teach them, heal their sicknesses, or even feed them. But sometimes, even Jesus needed a break. And He'd have to climb mountains or sail away in a boat just to get a moment to Himself!
- “But then there were the religious leaders: the Pharisees. They were angry that Jesus cared about ALL people—even the ones who didn't seem to be following all the rules. You see, the Pharisees believed that if they followed the rules, that made them closer to God than anyone else. So Jesus told them a parable to teach them a lesson.

##### B. *Scripture*

- Let's learn more in our video:

#### **2. Bible Story & Video (On-Screen 11:57)**

#### **3. Reflection (5 Minutes)**

##### A. *Reflection*

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- Well, that was VERY powerful—especially the part where the father ran to the son and hugged him. I mean, think about it. The son had done so many wrong things! He had asked his dad for his share of the property before it was the right time, he moved away, and then he wasted all his money in a faraway place. But the father was so happy to see his son again. Why? Because he loved him. He forgave his son for all the wrong things he had done.
- “There’s a reason why Jesus told that story. He wanted the religious leaders to understand that it isn’t that some people are good and some people are bad and that God only loves the good people. That’s not right at all. He wanted them to understand that ALL of us need God’s forgiveness.

#### D. Application

- **CG: Bottom Line Slide**
- **[Bottom Line] “Everyone needs to be forgiven.**
- “Here’s the great news. God is ALWAYS ready to forgive! He loves us. No matter what we’ve done, He’s waiting to welcome us home—just like the father in the story.
- Do you ever need forgiveness? Why would a kid need to be forgiven? What are some things a kid would need to be forgiven for?
- Because of Jesus does God forgive us all of those things? All of them????
- **CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**
  - “That’s what our memory verse for this month is all about. It’s Colossians 3:13.
- **CG: Memory Verse Slide**
  - “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).
- “You see, God is just like the father in the story Jesus told. And all of us are like the younger son. We all make bad choices and run from our father sometimes. But when we come to our senses, we remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.** We remember that we can always come back to Him and find His perfect love and forgiveness. He’s always waiting to forgive us when we mess up.
- “God has had a rescue plan for all of us since the very beginning—ever since Adam and Eve first sinned in the garden. When the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior. And Jesus carried out God’s plan by taking the punishment for the things we do that are wrong. All you have to do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to die for YOUR sins. And your sins—every single one—will be forgiven. God offers us forgiveness once and for all because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- **[Bottom Line] “Everyone needs to be forgiven.** That’s why Jesus died for us. Anytime you mess up, you don’t ever have to wonder if God will forgive you. You know

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He will! All you have to do is ask. You can come back to Him and find His love and forgiveness every time!

E. Pray

- “God, we are so thankful for Your love and Your forgiveness! It’s true that all of us mess up. All of us need to be forgiven. But You never turn your back on us, no matter what we’ve done. You’re ALWAYS there to love us and forgive us when we turn to You. Thank You for this reminder of Your great love for us. Help us to share Your forgiveness with the people around us, too. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.” ”Close
- “Let’s head to Small Group now and find some other ways we take the first step to forgive!”

*SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*

*CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video*

If You’re Looking for More...

**Types of questions that can help keep dialogue going...**

- Keep questions open ended and without right/wrong/yes/no responses
- Follow-up Questions:
  - Clarifying: Can you tell me a little bit more?
  - Question: Have you seen this happen somewhere before?
  - Follow-up: How come you think that is?
  - Bouncing: That’s a great question. Does anyone in the group have any thoughts on that?
  - Brainstorming: Let’s see how many ideas our group can come up with...
  - Sharing...I also noticed a connection between...
  - Answering: In the story the character said...
  - Prompting: Who would like to share what you wrote or drew?
  - Restating: What you are saying is...
  - Applying: How does this story change how we live each day?

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