

# PARENT GUIDE

GRADES K-3RD- MARCH 15

## 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)

## FORT BUILDING COMPETITION FAMILY CHALLENGE

Our theme for Village Kids this month is DIY.

This Sunday we have a fun DIY competition for you to do as a family! Build a fort using random objects from your house. Snap a picture of your creation (and family) and tag @ Village Kids & First Look to enter for a FAMILY PRIZE!

## ACTIVITY: HARD OR EASY?

### WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

Grab two pieces of paper and create two signs. One will say HARD and the other will say EASY.

Place the signs on the floor or tape them on the wall. Make sure they are a few feet apart.

Tell the kids you will call out different scenarios. Ask them whether it would be easy or hard to show forgiveness in each scenario (or perhaps somewhere in between). Whichever one they agree with is the side they should go to. Here are the scenarios:

Your friend forgot your birthday.

Someone made fun of you and wasn't sorry they did it.

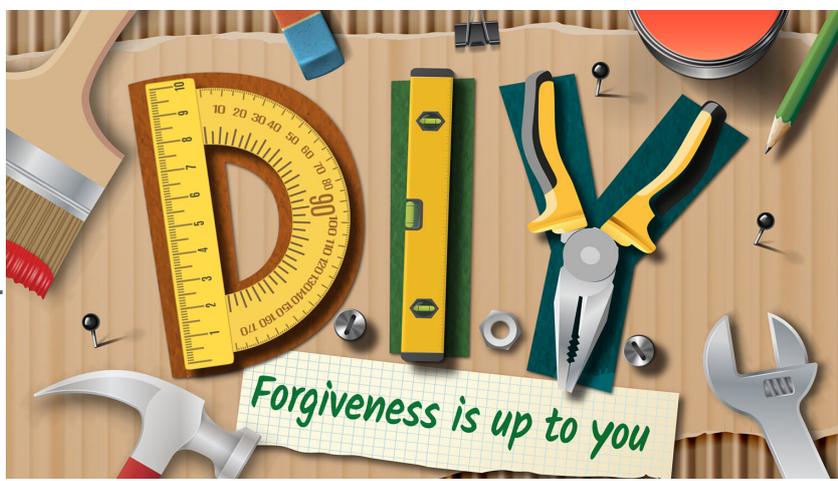
Your friend promised to save you a seat at lunch, but forgot so you had to eat alone.

Your parent was late picking you up from school.

Someone made fun of you and realized it was wrong and they were sorry.

Your sibling ate all the cookies and you didn't get a single one.

**WHAT YOU ASK AFTER:** When is it hard to forgive someone? (To prompt kids, ask: Is it easier to forgive someone you like or someone who annoys you? Or how do your feelings affect how easy it is to forgive someone? Is it easy to forgive someone when you are angry? What about if you have already forgiven them and they keep doing the same thing?)



## DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- o When is it hard to forgive someone? What can keep us from forgiving someone?
- o What are things people do when they hold a grudge?
- o What have you learned that can help you to take the first step to forgive? How can knowing we are all created in God's image help you to forgive others?

## ACTIVITY: BALANCING ACT

### WHAT YOU NEED: PENCIL/PEN, MUSIC

- Have your kids stand and spread out as much as possible in a certain area of the house.
- Give each child an object (such as a pencil or a pen) to balance on their head.
- Play upbeat instrumental music or sing a silly song.
- As the music plays, kids must walk around your the area balancing the pencil on their heads.
- If a pencil falls, they must freeze and cannot move again until another someone else picks up their pencil for them.
- Stop the music at regular intervals to allow kids to reset their pencils.
- Play as time and interest allow.

**WHAT YOU ASK AFTER:** "If you dropped the pencil in this game, what happened? (Pause for responses.)

Yes! You couldn't move until someone stepped up to help you. In our Bible story today, we learned about how stepping up can make a big difference in our relationships with others."

## PRAYER

"Let's pray. God, thank You for loving us and for always choosing to forgive us, even when we don't deserve it. When we're tempted to stay mad or refuse to forgive, help us to make the wise choice and choose to fix the relationship. Instead of just being right or making a point. We want to be a good friend and to love others the way You love us. So this week, help us to take the first step to forgive others. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

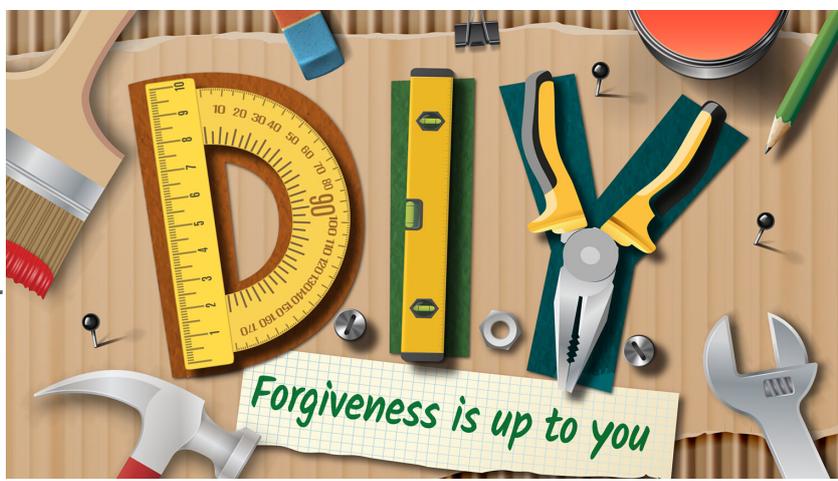
**BIBLE STORY: (STEP BY STEP) JESUS TEACHES ON FORGIVENESS,  
MATTHEW 5:1-2; 23-24**

# PARENT GUIDE

GRADE 4-5 - MARCH 15

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## ACTIVITY: HARD OR EASY?

### WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

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- Place the signs on the floor or tape them on the wall. Make sure they are a few feet apart.
- Tell the kids you will call out different scenarios. Ask them whether it would be easy or hard to show forgiveness in each scenario (or perhaps somewhere in between). Whichever one they agree with is the side they should go to. Here are the scenarios:
  - Your friend forgot your birthday.
  - Someone made fun of you and wasn't sorry they did it.
  - Your friend promised to save you a seat at lunch, but forgot so you had to eat alone.
  - Your parent was late picking you up from school.
  - Someone made fun of you and realized it was wrong and they were sorry.
  - Your sibling ate all the cookies and you didn't get a single one.

**WHAT YOU ASK AFTER:** When is it hard to forgive someone? (To prompt kids, ask: Is it easier to forgive someone you like or someone who annoys you? Or how do your feelings affect how easy it is to forgive someone? Is it easy to forgive someone when you are angry? What about if you have already forgiven them and they keep doing the same thing?)

**BIBLE STORY: (STEP BY STEP) JESUS TEACHES ON FORGIVENESS,  
MATTHEW 5:1-2; 23-24**

## DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- When is it hard to forgive someone? What can keep us from forgiving someone?
- What are things people do when they hold a grudge?
- What have you learned that can help you to take the first step to forgive?
- How can knowing we are all created in God's image help you to forgive others?

## BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

- Read Matthew 5:23. Ask: What does "offering your gift at the altar" mean? What was that person doing and do we do the same thing today? Answer: It sounds like the person was at the temple making an offering. It was one way to worship God and remember what He has done. We do that today by going to church and worshipping God through the Holy Spirit.
- Read Matthew 5:24. Ask: If offering your gift at the altar is what we do when we worship at church, what should we do if when we are at church we remember someone we do not like? Answer: According to this teaching from Jesus, we should do everything in our power to work it out with that person as soon as possible!
- Ask: According to these verses, what should be done first: worship God at church or work out a problem with someone. Answer: You need to always work out a problem with someone right away. Forgive that person so that your heart can be ready to worship God.

## PRAYER

"God, You are amazing! You sent Jesus so we could have Your forgiveness no matter what we've done. God, when we are hurt or angry it is hard for us to forgive. Often the first step we need to take is to tell You how we feel and trust You will help us to put up with each other and let go of what we are holding against someone. Help us to forgive as You forgave us; help us to take the first step. Amen."