

# UCC Next Gen: Kids

K-5TH - MARCH 22

## MARCH 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)



## Watch this week's lessons with us!

Join us on our UNITED: KIDS or United Church of Cohoes Facebook pages for new content several times a week, fun contests, videos from your leaders and Children's Church, Nursery story time with Gramma Kathie, and Midweek Kids videos.

## USING THIS PDF

### WHAT ARE ALL THESE PAGES?

- This PDF has a parent guide and activities for our younger and older elementary students.
- Select the one you think would work best for your child.
- Print the parent guide and student activities you have chosen.

## How to Reach Us

### We want to connect with YOU

If you are on Facebook please follow our United: Kids page and the United Church of Cohoes page. Louisa can also be reached by email at [NextGenUCC@gmail.com](mailto:NextGenUCC@gmail.com) or by phone at 518-424-2682 (Louisa has 6 kids and email is often the best way to get timely answer :)

# PARENT GUIDE — K-3

WEEK OF MARCH 22



## 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**

## BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven.

Use this guide to help your family stay connected, and to keep learning what God says about forgiveness.

First, watch this video <https://bit.ly/2TYwxKg> to hear God's truth in a way your kid can understand and enjoy. Then, follow up with the fun activities below!

## ACTIVITY: STORY PROPS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** a pillowcase and as many of the following items as you can find (*let everyone help with gathering items*): coins/pretend coins/play money, backpack, sleeping bag, stuffed animal pig (or other barnyard-type animal), sandals or flip flops, pretend jewelry ring, robe

**WHAT YOU DO:** Put all of the items in a pillowcase. Have each family member take turns pulling an item out of the pillowcase and describing how that item fits into today's Bible story. Or if you're feeling super creative, use the items to ACT OUT the story with your family! If you have a family pet, let them play the part of the pigs! To guide you, the main story points are below:

- A father had two sons. The younger of the two sons asked his father for his share of the inheritance.
- The father gave the money to his son.
- The son packed up and left home for a faraway country.
- There, the son wasted all his money.
- The son became so hungry, he took a job caring for pigs.
- The son decided to return home and beg to be let back in as a servant.
- The father ran to meet him, gave him a hug, and gave him the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his feet.
- The father threw a huge party to welcome his son home.

*Ask your kids:* Why do you think Jesus told this story? How does God, our heavenly Father, act like the father did in this story? (Adults, you can answer this question too!)

*Tell your kids:* It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done, **everyone needs to be forgiven!**

When you're finished, make cleanup a game. Divide the items evenly among all family members. Challenge everyone to see how quickly they can put their items back where they belong and return to the spot you're standing in now. Ready...GO!!!

## PRAYER

"God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We know that at some point in life, EVERYONE needs to be forgiven. We don't want to stay angry or blow up and do something unkind. Help us to choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

# UCC Next Gen: Kids

K-5TH - MARCH 22

## MARCH 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)



## Watch this week's lessons with us!

Join us on our UNITED: KIDS or United Church of Cohoes Facebook pages for new content several times a week, fun contests, videos from your leaders and Children's Church, Nursery story time with Gramma Kathie, and Midweek Kids videos.

## USING THIS PDF

### WHAT ARE ALL THESE PAGES?

- This PDF has a parent guide and activities for our younger and older elementary students.
- Select the one you think would work best for your child.
- Print the parent guide and student activities you have chosen.

## How to Reach Us

### We want to connect with YOU

If you are on Facebook please follow our United: Kids page and the United Church of Cohoes page. Louisa can also be reached by email at [NextGenUCC@gmail.com](mailto:NextGenUCC@gmail.com) or by phone at 518-424-2682 (Louisa has 6 kids and email is often the best way to get timely answer :)



# FORGIVENESS

*Deciding that  
someone who  
has wronged  
you doesn't  
have to pay*

## Read Colossians 1:14

## DAY 1

This passage talks about who? Yes, Jesus! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to do what no one else could do. He willingly faced the worst punishment of all, death on a cross, for you and for me. Why? So that we could be forgiven.

Grab some masking tape and a piece of paper. Use the masking tape to create a cross in the center of the page. Use a crayon or marker to color the page any way you choose. When finished, remove the tape in the center to reveal the cross. Then, write today's verse inside the cross, filling in the blanks as indicated below.

"Because of what Jesus has done, \_\_\_\_\_ has been set free. Because of Jesus, all  
Your name  
my sins have been forgiven." Colossians 1:14

Have you heard this good news before? Do you understand why Jesus chose to give His life so that you could be forgiven? If not, ask your parent or another trusted adult who follows God about what Jesus has done. Pray that God would help you follow Him and trust in Jesus so that you can be forgiven.

## Read Romans 3:23

## DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper and draw a target on the center. Wad up a few pieces of paper to use as your "darts." Hang up the target and stand several feet away. See if you can hit the target right in the center, standing in the exact same spot, 15 times in a row. Probably pretty difficult, right?

Sin is a little word that causes a lot of big problems. To sin means to miss the mark. Sin isn't just a problem for you, it's a problem for everyone. Imagine if God said, "Hey, if you want to have a relationship with me, then you need to hit the bullseye every single time." That would be like God saying, "If you want to have a relationship with me, you have to be perfect."

**Guess what?** No one can measure up to God's glory and perfection. But God loves you. He sent Jesus to die on the cross so that you can be forgiven.

Take a look at your dart board. Ask God to help you accept the forgiveness He offers when you miss the mark. Thank Him for sending Jesus so that you could be forgiven.

## Read Ephesians 2:4-5

DAY 3

Grab a piece of foil from the kitchen. Crumple it into a ball and then spread it back out on the counter. Can you make it look as shiny and smooth as it did before? Nope! This is kind of how our lives look when we mess up. Remember, everyone messes up. It's not just you. We all look like that crumpled up piece of foil.

God knows that no matter how hard we might try, we can never fix all those mess-ups on our own. **But God LOVES us deeply.** He is full of mercy. God sent Jesus so that our sins, our mess-ups, could be forgiven. His grace, which we cannot earn and do not deserve, has saved us. That's how BIG God's love is for you and for me.

Grab a ball point pen and draw a large heart in the center of your piece of foil. Use the pen to create a cool design inside the heart, creating ridges in the foil. Color in your design with permanent markers. Hang your heart in a place where you'll see it each day.

**Tell God thank you for loving you so much that He sent His only Son so that everyone can be forgiven.**

## Read Acts 10:43

DAY 4

Think about the last time someone hurt you. How did you respond? Did you say something unkind back? Are you still mad?

Do you see the word "all" in today's verse? It comes up twice. First, it talks about how *all* the prophets, (men chosen by God to deliver an important message) tell us about Jesus. And all who believe in Him will be forgiven.

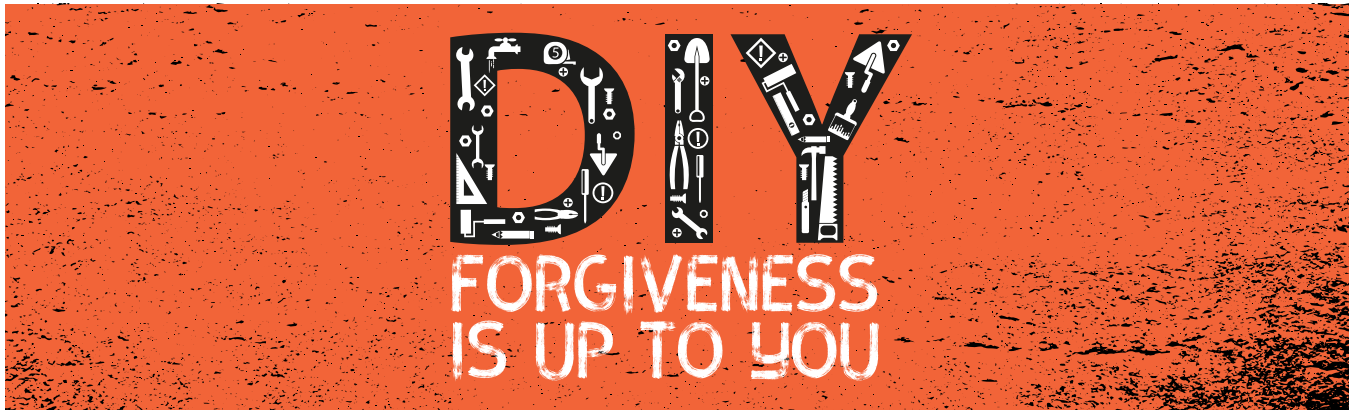
"All" includes the kid you still haven't forgiven. All includes your parents, your teachers, your favorite coach, and your grandparents. All includes the kids no one talks to and the kids everyone wants to hang out with. All includes you. God loves you so much and His forgiveness is SO big that it covers everything.

Everyone needs forgiveness. God sent His only Son, to die and be buried and rise again so that our sin, the mess ups we all make, would no longer separate us from Him. As you pray today, thank God for the forgiveness He offers to everyone. Ask Him to help you choose to forgive, because everyone needs forgiveness.



# PARENT GUIDE — PRETEENS

WEEK OF MARCH 22



## 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**

---

## KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

Use this guide to help your family stay connected, and to keep learning what God says about forgiveness.

First, watch this video <https://bit.ly/3d5jH4d> to hear God’s truth in a way your kid can understand and enjoy. Then, follow up with the fun activities below!

## ACTIVITY: PIN THE TAIL ON THE PIG!

**WHAT YOU NEED:** paper, pencils, tape, ribbon/pipe cleaner/long skinny strip of paper, blindfold/bandana/eye mask

**WHAT YOU DO:** Use the Pig Drawing instructions on the next page to draw a pig, making it as large as possible on the paper. Tape the pig drawing to a wall. Then, make the pig tails: take a ribbon, pipe cleaner, or long skinny strip of paper and curl it around the pencil tightly enough that it stays curly when the pencil is removed. Attach a piece of tape to the end. Play a couple rounds of “pin the tail on the pig.” Blindfold one person (or have them put their hands over their eyes) and spin them around a couple times. Point them in the direction of the pig drawing on the wall, and let them slowly walk toward it and tape their “pig tail” where they think it should go.

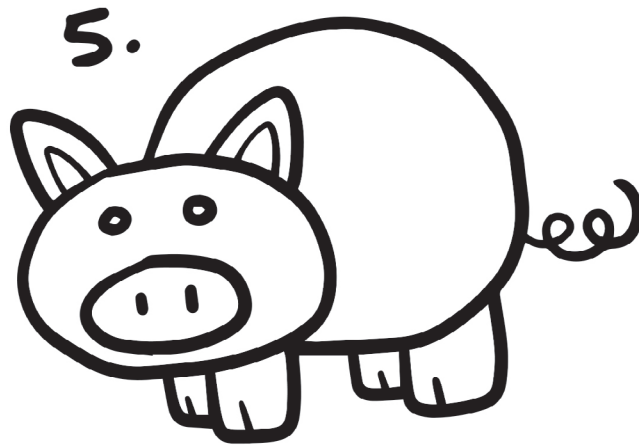
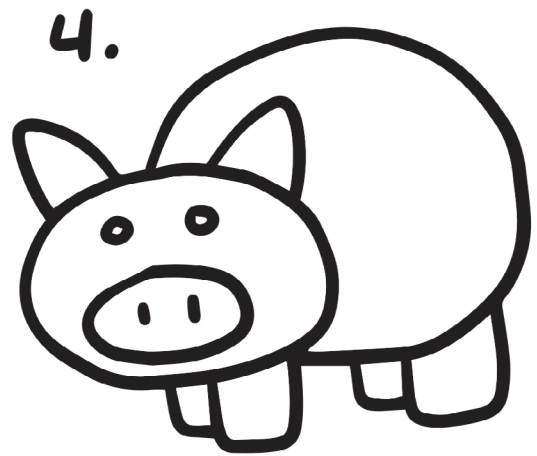
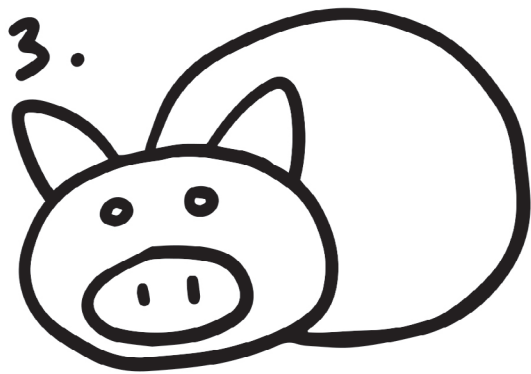
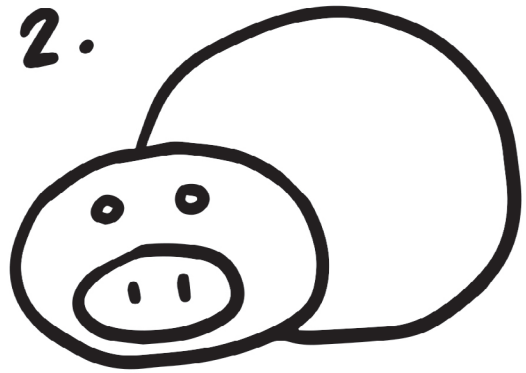
Depending on how many people are in your family, you could let everyone pin two tails on the pig. Whoever gets closest is the winner!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 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.*)
- Look up the Bible story in Luke 15:11-24, if needed, and encourage your preteen to retell you today’s story.
- Ask:
  - 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?
  - What is one way you usually respond when you’ve done something wrong?
  - When have you been forgiven for something?

## PRAYER

“God, thank You for giving us this story to help us understand how you always forgive us because you want to have a relationship with us. Forgive us when we do things that break our relationship with you and with the people in our lives. Help us also to forgive those around us when they do things that break our relationship with them. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”



## DAY 2

### Read Luke 15:11-24

Put a number in the blank beside each of these events, in order according to the story Jesus told in Luke 15. When you're done, go back and read Luke 15:11-24 to see if you got it right.

- \_\_\_ The father called for his servants to bring his best robe.
- \_\_\_ The son ran out of money.
- \_\_\_ The father ran out to him.
- \_\_\_ The younger son moved away.
- \_\_\_ The younger son asked for his share of the inheritance.
- \_\_\_ The son went home.
- \_\_\_ The country experienced a famine.
- \_\_\_ The father called for a party to celebrate.
- \_\_\_ The son got a job feeding pigs.
- \_\_\_ The father gave him what he asked.
- \_\_\_ The son apologized.
- \_\_\_ A man had two sons.
- \_\_\_ The son wasted his money living a wild and crazy life.
- \_\_\_ The son realized he could ask for his father's forgiveness.

**Notice the order of 10, 11 and 12.** All it took was for the son to head home to his father for the father to forgive him. He didn't even get out his apology to his father for the way he had treated him and wasted all his father had given him before his father was welcoming him back into he family. His hug said it all to his son: **"You don't owe me anymore."**

Answers: 13, 6, 11, 4, 2, 10, 7, 14, 8, 3, 12, 1, 5, 9

## DAY 3

In the story Jesus told as recorded in Luke 15, when the younger son realized he had done something wrong, he went home to make it right. When we realize we have done something that was wrong, we too need to ask for forgiveness.

Think back over the last few weeks. Is there something you did that you know was wrong? Did you hurt someone, or break a rule? Were you dishonest?

The truth is, you are not alone. We have all done things that are wrong, and **everyone needs to be forgiven.** But God decided we didn't have to pay for what we did wrong by sending Jesus. Jesus took on our sin and paid the price for us when He died on the cross. All we have to do is ask forgiveness for our sin, and we are immediately forgiven and made clean!

Have you ever told God you were sorry for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you haven't, and you'd like to, find a parent or adult who you know trusts in Jesus, and ask them to pray with you, telling God you're sorry for the things you've done wrong, and thanking Him for sending Jesus to be your Savior. Whether you decide to put your trust in Jesus today, or you have made that decision in the past, take a minute to pray a prayer of thankfulness too—forgiveness is the most amazing gift we can receive!

## DAY 4

Have you asked God to forgive you for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus? Maybe you even did it yesterday! If you did, how cool! And if you aren't ready for that step yet, that's okay too! The good news is that God is always there, waiting, just like the father in the story Jesus told in Luke 15. The son may have wandered from home and messed up, but the father was always there, waiting to welcome him back!

If you have made this decision, take some time today to tell someone about it! Think about someone you know who follows Jesus. They will

be so excited to hear you've decided to trust Him too. Be sure and tell them how it feels to experience forgiveness (really good, right?!).

Also, take a minute to talk about what this forgiveness means going forward. Does this mean you'll never mess up or need to apologize again. (Hint: Nope.) But share with each other how it feels to know that even when you mess up in the future, God is always there, waiting to welcome you back home with forgiveness.





## DAY 2

### Read Luke 15:11-24

Put a number in the blank beside each of these events, in order according to the story Jesus told in Luke 15. When you're done, go back and read Luke 15:11-24 to see if you got it right.

- \_\_\_ The father called for his servants to bring his best robe.
- \_\_\_ The son ran out of money.
- \_\_\_ The father ran out to him.
- \_\_\_ The younger son moved away.
- \_\_\_ The younger son asked for his share of the inheritance.
- \_\_\_ The son went home.
- \_\_\_ The country experienced a famine.
- \_\_\_ The father called for a party to celebrate.
- \_\_\_ The son got a job feeding pigs.
- \_\_\_ The father gave him what he asked.
- \_\_\_ The son apologized.
- \_\_\_ A man had two sons.
- \_\_\_ The son wasted his money living a wild and crazy life.
- \_\_\_ The son realized he could ask for his father's forgiveness.

**Notice the order of 10, 11 and 12.** All it took was for the son to head home to his father for the father to forgive him. He didn't even get out his apology to his father for the way he had treated him and wasted all his father had given him before his father was welcoming him back into he family. His hug said it all to his son: **"You don't owe me anymore."**

Answers: 13, 6, 11, 4, 2, 10, 7, 14, 8, 3, 12, 1, 5, 9

## DAY 3

In the story Jesus told as recorded in Luke 15, when the younger son realized he had done something wrong, he went home to make it right. When we realize we have done something that was wrong, we too need to ask for forgiveness.

Think back over the last few weeks. Is there something you did that you know was wrong? Did you hurt someone, or break a rule? Were you dishonest?

The truth is, you are not alone. We have all done things that are wrong, and **everyone needs to be forgiven.** But God decided we didn't have to pay for what we did wrong by sending Jesus. Jesus took on our sin and paid the price for us when He died on the cross. All we have to do is ask forgiveness for our sin, and we are immediately forgiven and made clean!

Have you ever told God you were sorry for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you haven't, and you'd like to, find a parent or adult who you know trusts in Jesus, and ask them to pray with you, telling God you're sorry for the things you've done wrong, and thanking Him for sending Jesus to be your Savior. Whether you decide to put your trust in Jesus today, or you have made that decision in the past, take a minute to pray a prayer of thankfulness too—forgiveness is the most amazing gift we can receive!

## DAY 4

Have you asked God to forgive you for the things you've done wrong and put your trust in Jesus? Maybe you even did it yesterday! If you did, how cool! And if you aren't ready for that step yet, that's okay too! The good news is that God is always there, waiting, just like the father in the story Jesus told in Luke 15. The son may have wandered from home and messed up, but the father was always there, waiting to welcome him back!

If you have made this decision, take some time today to tell someone about it! Think about someone you know who follows Jesus. They will

be so excited to hear you've decided to trust Him too. Be sure and tell them how it feels to experience forgiveness (really good, right?!).

Also, take a minute to talk about what this forgiveness means going forward. Does this mean you'll never mess up or need to apologize again. (Hint: Nope.) But share with each other how it feels to know that even when you mess up in the future, God is always there, waiting to welcome you back home with forgiveness.





# WHEN HAS SOMEONE FORGIVEN YOU?

## DAY 5

It feels awesome to know God has forgiven you, doesn't it? But how about others? Have you ever had to ask for forgiveness from someone else for something you did that hurt them? How did it feel when they forgave you?

**Grab a sheet of paper and write your own parable.** It could be based on a true story from your own life, or just a modern day re-telling of the story Jesus told. Either way, before you write, think about how you've felt when you've messed up, and how you felt when you were forgiven. Include those emotions in your story.

**After you write your story, take some time to share it with your family and then hang it somewhere that reminds all of you how great it feels to be forgiven.**

# FORGIVENESS

DECIDING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS WRONGED YOU DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY

## DAY 1

Go to [Studio252.tv](http://Studio252.tv) and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on *Fun2Watch!* then *The So & So Show.*)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

### SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: \_\_\_\_\_

2) YOU LEARNED: \_\_\_\_\_

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: \_\_\_\_\_