

UCC Next Gen: Kids

K-5TH - MARCH 29

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, video messages from your leaders, Children's Church videos, printable activities, Nursery story time with Gramma Kathie, and Midweek Kids Program 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 or by phone at 518-424-2682 (Email or text is often the best way to get timely answer from Louisa)



DIY

FORGIVENESS IS UP TO YOU

PARENT CUE * K-3 * Week of March 29th

Learn more about what God says about forgiveness with your family. First, watch this video <https://bit.ly/2xoFkMo> Then, follow up with the activity below!

REMEMBER THIS

“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)

LIFE APP

FORGIVENESS: deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Father and Older Brother)
Luke 15:21-32

SAY THIS

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

ACTIVITY: FORGIVENESS PARTY

WHAT YOU NEED:

upbeat music, a fun snack or treat (whatever you have at home!), any party supplies you have on-hand (hats, streamers, decorations, etc.)

WHAT YOU DO:

Throw a forgiveness party!

The father in today's story was overwhelmed with joy when his son returned, so he threw a massive party. You can also celebrate forgiveness by having a mini-party of your own.

If you don't have party supplies, make some! Make a paper chain, banners, or even your own party hats.

As you're enjoying your fun snack or treat, engage your family in a conversation about today's Bible story.

*How did the father react when his son returned? *(He forgave him and threw a huge party to celebrate his son's return.)*

*Where was the older brother when the younger son returned? *(working in the field)*

*How did the older brother react when he found out that the party was for his younger brother who'd returned home? *(He was angry.)*

*Why do you think the older brother was SO mad? Have you ever been mad that someone else got something good that you didn't think they deserved? *(We've probably all felt this way. Help your child understand that feeling this way is okay, but when we hold onto those feelings, we can miss out on great things like celebrations and relationships with people we love.)*

Then, turn up the music, challenge your kid to a dance-off, and enjoy the rest of your party.

PRAYER

If it makes sense when your party is over, spend some time in prayer. If not, try to pray together as a family some time before bed:

“God, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, no matter what. Thank You for teaching us that when we stay angry instead of forgiving, we can miss out on some incredible experiences. When we feel like holding onto our anger, please help us realize it and let it go. We love You, God. Amen.”



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FORGIVENESS

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

Read Luke 6:37

DAY 1

If we're not careful, we can spend all our time pointing out other people's mistakes instead of taking a long hard look at our own behavior. Once you start judging and blaming, pretty soon you realize you're just as imperfect too.

But remember, the answer is forgiveness! Forgiveness is deciding someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. It's a choice. When you refuse to forgive, when you choose to stay angry, you miss out.

Here's your challenge this week. When you find yourself about to blame or judge someone else, stop yourself. Hold your tongue. Don't even let the words come out of your mouth. Make a decision to let it go so you don't miss out.

This will definitely require God's help! As you pray today, ask God to help you remember that you're not perfect. Tell Him that you love Him and ask God to help you forgive so you don't miss out this week.

Read Hebrews 10:30

DAY 2

What are some chores you're responsible for around your house?

What are some chores your mom or dad are responsible for?

According to this verse, whose job is it to judge? Is it yours? Nope, it's God's job. When someone says or does something unkind, you could choose to stay mad. Or you could choose to let God be the judge. It's His job anyway.

God sees and knows all. You can talk to Him and tell Him why you're mad and ask Him to help you decide to forgive. As you pray today, tell God why you're angry or sad. Talk about what happened and how you want to forgive but it's hard. Ask Him to do His job (the judging part) and help you do yours (the forgiving part) so you don't miss out.

Read Matthew 6:14

DAY 3

Riding a bike
Tying your shoes
Reading aloud
Meeting an adult
Walking into a new classroom

Do you know what all these things have in common? They're all things that at one time seemed scary or hard. But once you practiced a little, they're not so bad! The best way to get better at anything is to practice. It's the same with forgiveness. The more you make the choice to forgive, the easier it will become. And, the more you model forgiveness, the more likely the people around you are to forgive too. Don't you want to hang out with friends that choose to forgive?

Ask your mom or dad to tell you about a time when they chose to forgive someone as a kid even when it was really hard. What happened? How did practicing forgiveness in that example help them become better at forgiving the next time?

Thank God for the reminder today that forgiveness takes practice! Ask God to help you choose to forgive this week so you don't miss out.

*When you
don't forgive,
you miss out.*



Read Zechariah 7:9

DAY 4

Today's verse includes some big words that need defining!

Justice – the quality of being just, impartial, or fair

Mercy – compassion or patience shown to an offender (someone who has wronged you)

God is asking us to treat others with fairness. To show love and compassion and patience to one another, even those who hurt us. Why? Because that's exactly how God treats us! He treats us fairly. He is loving and patient and kind, always.

In the space below, rewrite today's verse in your own words. Feel free to use the words in the definitions above or to look up the verse in different translations. You could even go BibleGateway.com (with an adult's permission) to read this verse in different translations.

Read the words you've written today as a prayer to God, asking Him to help you choose forgiveness so you don't miss out!

DIY

FORGIVENESS IS UP TO YOU

PARENT CUE | PRETEEN | Week of March 29th

Learn more about what God says about forgiveness with your family.

First, watch this video
<https://bit.ly/33JeYAV>

Then, follow up with the activity below!

REMEMBER THIS

“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)

LIFE APP

FORGIVENESS:
deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

BIBLE STORY

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing
(Father and Older Brother)
Luke 15:21-32

SAY THIS

When has someone forgiven you?

ACTIVITY: LET IT GO

WHAT YOU NEED:

wrapped piece candy or granola bar, cotton balls or small wads of paper

WHAT YOU DO:

Give your kid a wrapped piece of candy or granola bar and two cotton balls or paper wads. Ask them to think of a time when someone did something to make them mad. (They might not have to think that far back!) Compare this feeling to how angry the older brother was in today's story. Ask your kid to hold a cotton ball in each hand and imagine that the cotton balls represent the thing that made them angry. As they hold onto the cotton balls, ask them to try to unwrap the candy or granola bar. (Of course, they can't do it! But it's fun to let them try.)

Then, tell your kid to let go of the cotton balls and unwrap the candy. Just like you can't unwrap a piece of candy while holding onto cotton balls, you can miss out on something good if you hold onto your anger and refuse to forgive.

While your kid is enjoying their candy or granola bar, spend a few minutes discussing the following:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*Ask your kid to retell you today's story. (Look up Luke 15: 21-32 if they need a reminder.)

*What is a grudge?

*What can you miss out on if you don't forgive?

*What did the older brother miss out on because he stayed angry with his father?

PRAYER

If it makes sense when you've finished your activity, spend some time in prayer.
If not, try to pray together as a family some time before bed:

“God, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, no matter what. Thank You for teaching us that when we stay angry instead of forgiving, we can miss out on some incredible experiences. When we feel like holding onto our anger, please help us realize it and let it go. We love You, God. Amen.”



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WHAT DO YOU LOSE IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE?

DAY 5

What is your dream party? Who would you invite? Where would it be? What would you do? How long would it last?

Did you create a pretty epic party in your mind? Now imagine that party is happening, but the only way you can go is if you forgive someone who hurt you. That may seem like a strange deal, but it's the situation the older brother found himself in when his father chose to not only forgive, but to celebrate his younger brother when he returned after really messing up.

In real life, you may not miss out on a party if you don't forgive someone (although you might!), but you can certainly miss out on some great things if you don't forgive. You might miss out on a great friendship. You might have your day or even week ruined because you're too caught up in your anger. You might even miss a great opportunity God has for you to experience something really cool, all because you're too caught up in the past.

Go in the bathroom with a dry erase marker and draw a party hat on your head in the bathroom mirror. As you go throughout your week, think about that epic party and how you don't want to miss it because you chose not to forgive!

FORGIVENESS

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

DAY 1

Go to 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: _____

DAY 2

Read Luke 15:21-32

As you read Luke 15:21-32, draw an emoji (either in your Bible or on a sheet of paper) that you think represents that sentence or paragraph. (Like, besides verse 21, you might draw a sad emoji, but then beside verse 22-24, you might draw a happy face and a party hat emoji)

There were a lot of emotions in the story Jesus told, weren't there? Everything from happy to sad to angry and even jealous. And if the older brother decided not to forgive, he was missing out on all the . . .



DAY 3

When you don't forgive someone, it's like you're holding on to the hurt and pain they caused you. And when you do that, it's impossible to have a good relationship with that person because you're too busy holding on to anger.

Read the prayer below, filling in your own words in the blanks. Start out your prayer with your fists clenched tight, but as you pray, slowly release your hands and relax. By the time you're done praying, your hands should be turned over and open, palms to the sky, releasing the person you've forgiven.

Dear God, I know I need to forgive _____ for _____ . It really made me mad that they did that, but I don't want to be mad anymore. I don't want to hold on to anger. I want to release my anger and instead choose forgiveness. I have decided that _____ doesn't have to pay, even though they hurt me. I release them and choose forgiveness instead. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen."

DAY 4

Yesterday, you ended your prayer of forgiveness with your palms open and facing upward, instead of clenched tight in anger. Now go take those open hands and use them to either high-five or hug the friend or family member you've chosen to forgive. Think about how you couldn't do that if you still had your fists clenched tight in anger. By releasing them and choosing forgiveness, you won't miss out on this relationship that means a lot to you!

After you hug or high-five, take a minute to tell your friend or family member something you appreciate about them—one or two reasons that you're glad that you're family or friends. Just think: if you didn't forgive, you'd miss out on that special trait or gift that person brings to your life!

