

# OUR CITY KIDS

ELEMENTARY – Kinder – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

*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)

## **ACTIVITY:**

### **Party Time!**

**What You Need:** Tablecloth; make party hats; Bible; treat or toys to share; napkins (*optional*)

### **What You Do:**

- Cover your Small Group area with the tablecloth.
- Encourage the kids to make their party hats.
  - Decorate construction/white paper, roll like a cone, and tape or staple.
- Set the treats or toys in the center of the tablecloth, but do not allow the kids to touch them yet.
- Talk about the choices the older brother in our story made today.
  - 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*)
  - What did the older brother say to the father? (*"All these years I have worked, I've obeyed. You've never thrown me a party."*)
  - Why do you think the older brother was SO mad? Can you relate to this?
  - Why do you think the father celebrated in such a big way?
- Pass out the treats or toys for the kids to enjoy.
- As they finish, collect their hats to be used during the prayer activity.

### **What You Say:**

"I can relate to the older brother in this story. He's right; he was the one who had stayed, the one who worked hard and honored his dad. But he missed out. Because he thought it was more important to be right than to forgive, he missed the opportunity to celebrate his brother's return. Sometimes we do the same thing. We want to make a point or prove that we're right and the other person is wrong. But in the end, your friendship is WAY more important than winning an argument. We need to offer forgiveness when someone apologizes and means it. Because **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Questions:**

- What can it cost you to hold a grudge? For example, what might you miss out on if you decided to hold a grudge and not forgive a friend?
- What if a friend says something unkind to you and they never say they are sorry? Do you still forgive them? Do you only forgive someone if they ask you?
- Is forgiveness always fair? How does it make you feel when it's not fair?