



BIBLE STORY

Older Brother
Luke 15:21-32

MEMORY VERSE

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
Colossians 3:13, NIV

LIFE APP

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

KEY QUESTION

What do you lose if you don't forgive?

BOTTOM LINE

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

OIKOS CORE STRATEGY

STEP 3: INVEST

Look for ways to spend time with each person. Tell them about the good things God does in your life, and tell them about how He helps you.

CONNECT

GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

WHAT YOU NEED: None

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Tape** two lines on opposite sides of the room or outside, as far apart as your space will allow.
- **Divide** your family into two teams
- **Line** up one team behind each of the taped lines. Teams should be standing on opposite sides of the room or space facing each other.
- **Say** "Go" and a kid from each team run toward each other. Wherever they meet, they play a round of Rock, Paper, Scissors (RPS). To play RPS:
 - o Kids make a fist and say, "Rock Paper, Scissors, Shoot."
 - o On "Shoot," kids use their hand make a rock (a fist), paper (an open hand with palm facing the ground), or scissors (make a "v" or a "scissor" with their index and middle finger).
 - o Rock beats Scissors, Scissors beats Paper, Paper beats Rock.
 - o The kid who loses that round goes to the back of his team's line.
 - o The winner of the round continues to run towards the opposing team as the next player from the opposing team runs towards the winner.
 - o Wherever they meet, the two kids or (family members) play RPS.
 - o The team that crosses their opponent's starting line first wins.
- Play several rounds as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- "That was a fun game. But you know what isn't fun? LOSING!"
- [Transition] Let's watch this weeks lesson to hear about what we can lose if we choose not to forgive.



APPLY

1. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

REVIEW:

- Read **Luke 15:21-32**

ASK:

- What was the father's response to the younger brother's return?
- How would you describe the older brother when he found out his father threw a party celebrating the younger son's return? (If necessary, read Luke 15:28-29. Answers could include: angry, bitter, jealous, ungrateful)
- What was the older brother missing out on by choosing to hold onto his negative emotions toward his brother?
- What was the father's response to his older son? (Luke 15:31)
- 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?
- How does showing forgiveness to someone in your oikos, even when they don't deserve it, help you show God's love to them?
- Is forgiveness always fair? How does it make you feel when it's not fair? [Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share about a time when someone treated you unfairly or when you were mad at someone for how they treated you. Did you forgive them right away? Did it take you time to forgive them? How did you feel when you decided to forgive them? Did you miss out on something because you wanted to make them pay?)





2. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, sticky notes, cups, balloons, markers/pencils, a table

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Matthew 22:39 and read it together.
- **Ask:**
 - How can forgiveness show others you love God?
 - How can forgiveness show others God loves them?
 - What opportunities can you miss out on when you choose not to forgive?
- **Divide** kids into two teams.
- **Ask:** What could you miss out on if you choose not to forgive someone, to hold a grudge, or to get even with someone who has wronged you?
- **Encourage** kids to write their answers on a sticky note (one answer per note).
- **Discuss** the answers.
- **Tell** kids to stick their notes in a row on a table, close to the edge.
- **Instruct** kids to cover the notes on the table with cups.
- Kids are going to race to knock off the “grudges” to reveal what you “don’t want to miss.” To race:
 - **Give** each kid an uninflated balloon.
 - When you say “GO,” kids blow up their balloon.
 - Pointing the “valve” end at the cups, kids release the air, trying to knock the cups off the table.
 - Kids cannot touch the cups with the balloon itself or with their body.
 - The first team to knock off all the cups wins.
 - For a visual, **go to:** <http://bit.ly/2qy8B4l>