

Forgiveness:

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

Activity #1: Discussion

What you need:

Cotton ball and individually wrapped candy (one per person)

What You Do:

Ask:

- 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?
[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?)

Activity #2: Read the Bible Story Luke: 15: 21-32

What you need:

Nothing

What You Do:

- You may want to review the first part of Luke 15 from last week. It is the first part of the Prodigal Son story.
- Suggestion: take turns reading a few verses to really let them feel your participation in this

Activity #3: Video – SO AND SO SHOW week 5

What you need:

Video online at www.myrtlegrovebaptist/children

What You Do:

Watch video

Activity #4: Bible Story Extension [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need:

Bibles, wrapped candy, cotton balls

What You Do:

- **Review** the story.
- **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)*
- Even though what his younger brother did was wrong, the older son had a choice to make. The older brother could decide to let go of his anger and bitterness or he could hold on to it and decide his younger brother should pay.
- **Place** a wrapped piece of candy in front of each kid and **give** each kid a cotton ball.
- **Give** kids time to think of something they may be holding against someone. Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly. Maybe someone flattened a tire on their bike or broke their favorite toy. Maybe they are angry at someone for not doing what they said they would do. Or prompt kids to think about how the older brother was holding onto his anger and resentment.
- **Explain** that the cotton ball represents something you're holding against someone.
- **Tell** kids hold on to the cotton ball with both hands and squeeze as tightly as they can.
- While squeezing the cotton ball with both hands, **challenge** kids to unwrap the candy using only their hands.
- **Tell** kids to open their hands so the cotton ball is resting on their palms.
- Just like you cannot grab onto the candy while focusing on squeezing the cotton ball, when you are holding on to grudges and focusing on how you may have been wronged, you could miss out on a lot. *(e.g. friendships, good times with others, joy, a party [like the older brother missed out on], etc.)*

Activity #5: Review and Recite Memory Verse

