

# I Don't Want to Miss a Thing

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

**Bottom Line:** When you don't forgive, you miss out.

**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)

**Life App:** Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help your few understand that forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting what's happened to you and ignoring its consequences. But it does mean that if you hold on to those wrongs, you'll miss out on relationships with others. Pray that God would give kids the courage to forgive the wrongs that have been done to them.*

### **1. Make Me Laugh**

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body.

**What You Need:** "Make Me Laugh" Activity Page

**What You Do:**

- Tell the kids you are going to tell some jokes, but they have to try not to laugh.
- Guide kids to form a straight line facing you.
- Read the jokes from the Activity Page.
- If kids laugh, they are out. The last serious kid standing is the winner.
- Play again if time allows, and see if the kids have any jokes of their own.

**What You Say:**

"Those were so hilarious! It is so hard being serious when everyone else is laughing and having fun. It almost feels like you are missing out on the joke. **[Transition]** Let's head to Large Group to hear a story that we definitely don't want to miss out on."

### **2. Get Your Head in the Game**

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

**What You Need:** Masking tape

- **Tape** two lines on opposite sides of the environment, as far apart as your space will allow.
- **Divide** the group into two teams. Depending on the size of your Small Groups, you can combine Small Groups and do this as a big group activity.
- **Line** up one team behind each of the taped lines. Teams should be standing on opposite sides of the room 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:
  - Kids make a fist and say, "Rock Paper, Scissors, Shoot."
  - 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).
  - Rock beats Scissors, Scissors beats Paper, Paper beats Rock.
  - The kid who loses that round goes to the back of his team's line.
  - The winner of the round continues to run towards the opposing team as the next player from the opposing team runs towards the winner.
  - Wherever they meet, the two kids play RPS.
  - 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 head to Large Group to hear about what we can lose if we choose not to forgive."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**1. Forgiveness Recap**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body.*

**What you Need:** Prepared box with items inside

**What You Do:**

- Have the kids sit in a circle around a table or on the floor.
- Put the box in the middle and tell them you are going to try and remember all of our stories from this month.
- Invite one child to pull something out of the box.
- Use the guide below to see if the kids can remember the story and the Bottom Line.
  - **Coin:** The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 8:21-35). In the story, the king forgave all the servant owed him and asked for nothing in return, just like God forgives us. **Bottom Line: Forgive others because God forgives you.**
  - **Pretend Food:** Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). Zacchaeus was not a very nice man. When Jesus came to his town, Jesus wanted to go to his house for dinner. People were so shocked that Jesus wanted to eat with a man who was so mean. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his mistakes and changed his heart. Zacchaeus went on to change the people around him by giving them all of their money back. **Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.**
  - **Shoe:** Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness (Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24) Jesus talked about how we should go to our friends first to work on forgiveness before we do anything else. **Bottom Line: Take the first step to forgive others.**
  - **Pig:** The Story of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-24). The son in this story decided to leave his home and spend all of his money on silly things. He ended up sitting with the pigs because he did not make the best choices. He returned home to find his dad so excited that he was home. The dad forgave his son even though he made some mistakes, just like God forgives us. **Bottom Line: Everyone needs to be forgiven.**
  - **Party Blowers:** Father and Older Brother (Luke 15:21-32). After the son returned home, the dad wanted to throw a huge party. The older brother was not very happy about it and was almost going to miss out on the celebration. He learned that he should be happy that his brother returned home and asked for forgiveness. **Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.**

**What You Say:**

"Which of these people we've talked about this month do you think was the most thankful to be forgiven? *(There is no right answer to this. Simply encourage the kids to share their thoughts.)* I think they were all SUPER thankful to be forgiven! I'm always thankful to be forgiven, too. Aren't you?"

"We learned so much this month about forgiveness. It is important for us to ask for forgiveness, forgive others, and celebrate forgiveness. Sometimes it takes hard work and time to forgive those around us, but remember our story today taught us that **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

## 2. Blocking the Fun

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing*

**What You Need:** Large stackable items such as Mega Bloks® or LEGO® blocks

#### **What You Do:**

- Please make this a simple, quick activity. If some kids don't want to participate because of the physical touching happening, they don't have to.
- Set out your stackable items and invite the kids to pair up.
- One partner will hold their arms out while the other partner stacks blocks onto their arms. Stack the blocks not too heavy, but heavy enough to where it is a little tricky to move.
- Play some music and tell the kids holding blocks to try and dance.
- Give them a few minutes to try and dance holding the blocks.
- Switch partners and give them a chance to stack the blocks and dance.

#### **What You Say**

"It is kinda tricky to hold the blocks and dance at the same time, right? In our story today, the older brother couldn't celebrate forgiveness because he was too busy holding things against his younger brother. It is just like the older brother was holding lots of heavy blocks so they got in the way of him celebrating! When we choose to forgive others, it is like dropping all of this heavy weight. When we choose not to forgive, the heavy stuff keeps us from celebrating or simply having a good day.

"Let's think about some times this might happen to us. Maybe you're so mad that your little brother tore up your favorite book that you scream at him, get in trouble with your parents, and miss out on a play date with your best friend. Or maybe you're so upset that your mom forgot she had a meeting when she had promised you would have family movie night tonight, and you spend the whole evening pouting and thinking mean thoughts about her instead of simply enjoying spending time with the rest of your family. Or what if you don't get that really expensive gift you wanted for your birthday, so you refuse to play with the toys you DID get and won't talk to anyone at your party? Remember that **[Bottom Line]** when you don't forgive, you miss out."

**[Make It Personal]** (Tell a child-appropriate story about a time when you missed out on celebrating because you didn't forgive. Share about how that made you feel and how you eventually came around.)

## 3. Three-Legged Relay

### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body.*

**What You Need:** Streamer roll, "Memory Verse Phrases" (Activity Page)

#### **What You Do:**

- Pair kids up. If you have an odd number of kids, choose someone to be your "Special Helper."
  - If there's a child in your group with some gross-motor physical limitations, they would be a great choice for this role.
- Tell kids to stand side by side with their partner, with their "inside" legs touching.
- Use the streamer roll to tie their inside legs together, just above the knee. Wrap the streamer around several times (so it hopefully won't break), and tie off the ends.
  - If you have a Special Helper, she can help with this step.
- Divide the pairs into two teams. If one team has one more pair than the other, that's okay.
- Line the teams up at one end of your space. Place each set of Memory Verse Phrases on the ground opposite each team.
- Kids will relay to retrieve all of the phrases.
- Once a team has all the pieces, they have to put the verse together. The first team to put their verse together wins!
- If you have time, play again. You can switch out the Special Helper, if you have one, and mix the teams up.

### What You Say:

“Great job working together to put the verse together! When you have to work together with someone else to get something done, or even when you’re playing a game, sometimes the other person might do something that makes you not accomplish your task or even lose a game. When that happens, we need to remember to forgive. Say the verse with me. *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). When things happen that we don’t like, we need to forgive. Because **[Bottom Line] when you don’t forgive, you miss out.**”

### Pray and Dismiss

#### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

#### What You Need:

#### What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Ask kids to call out things we can celebrate about God.
  - Kids may need some prompting at first. You can start by saying a few things yourself, such as: He made us, He loves us, He forgives us, etc.

#### What You Say:

“Let’s pray and thank God for all that He does for us and then we can celebrate! Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us no matter what and teaching us to forgive others. We love You so much. Amen!

“It is so amazing that God forgives us, and I think it’s also amazing that He gives us the ability to forgive others. This week, remember **[Bottom Line] when you don’t forgive, you miss out.**”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to blow their party blowers and tell them their favorite thing we can celebrate about God.