

TRINITY GRACE CHURCH

TGC KIDS GUIDE FOR MARCH 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

I wonder if you are like me, then all the feelings are flowing. There is so much going on and so much to be aware, it can often feel like too much. First, I am here to pray for you and with you. While we can't meet as a church like we usually do, it sure doesn't mean we have to stop praying and worshiping. In fact, this time offers our families a unique opportunity to come together in our church experience. We are usually separate as a church, the kids have their worship experience, and adults have theirs.

For this week, at least, we are all going to be together as one big family. Some of you will worship as a family at home, and others might find your way to a house church meeting. No matter how you worship this week, do it together. Here are a few ideas to come together in a worship experience...

1 / Let Kids Be Kids

Let your kiddos wiggle freely and ask questions quietly. They will be curious and that is a wonderful thing! Try to avoid the feeling that they need to be in a separate room! Let them hear and absorb how you are experiencing the Lord at this time.

2 / Worship Time

As you sing songs in worship, the kids do know some of the "adults" songs. They are particularly fond of "Way Maker," "Since your love" and "Who you say I am." Also, don't hesitate to discover some songs from TGC Kids worship playlist and they can teach you our hand motions!

3 / Teaching Time

As you read through the liturgy, sing songs in worship, pray together and listen to the sermon, offer things to keep their hands busy. Coloring, play dough, and quiet blocks are a few ideas to engage their imagination during quieter moments.

4 / Ministry Time

The only time I would encourage you to move kids into a separate space is if someone is very emotional and needs a time of focused prayer. You could simply articulate to the kid that they need some space and friends are going to pray with them while we go play in the other room. This would be a great opportunity to use the provided videos (Ollie and the Wonder Clubhouse, 252 Story, or The So and So Show).

5 / Closing Discussion

Unless you need to use the videos for Ministry Time, I suggest inviting everyone to watch the kid videos together as a family. That will help open up a discussion about these stories as you go about the rest of your day!

6 / Remember...

Your kids will always seem the most wiggly and loud to you. If you are worshiping with other families or friends without kids, they will be overjoyed to experience the amazing way God has made each of your children. So, you just relax into the loving presence of God and worship!

Please feel free to share your feelings with me or others in the church so that we can really support you. We're learning as we go, so feel free to reach out with questions and ideas!

With love,
Elisa Booker and Danielle Swink



WEEK THREE

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JESUS TEACHES ON FORGIVENESS • MATTHEW 5:1-2; 23-24

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SAY THIS:

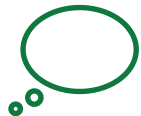
TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO FORGIVE OTHERS.



DO THIS:



God says that loving others means making the first move. Whether you need to be forgiven or whether you need to forgive, if something is wrong between you and someone else, you need to take a step to make things right. You might even say that choosing to make peace with others through forgiveness is one of the best gifts you can give God! Pray that God will help you make the first move to forgive.



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

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



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FORGIVENESS:
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STORIES THAT TEACH FORGIVENESS

By Dan Scott

Forgiveness can be hard.

We all have this tendency to hold our hurt and carry it around like a weight in a backpack. We just keep piling in those hurts, until we bend and break beneath the weight of our bitterness. Even as adults, this is something we're prone to do. No matter how hard we try forgiveness doesn't seem to be our natural instinct.

Imagine how difficult it must be for our kids. They're just learning to grapple with the emotions associated with hurt. Friends can be fickle. Hurt people hurt people. And our kids are left aching from the hurt; yet they're unable to process what they're feeling and find the path towards forgiveness.

As parents, we try and help them see how forgiveness will free them from the additional hurt that comes. But kids are often too close to the situation to see any other option than letting the bitterness sink in making way for revenge to take over. And so, our words fail us and we need some help.

Thankfully, we have stories. Stories over time give us a perspective on life we can't see on our own. Forgiveness is one of those areas where stories can

offer a perspective for you and your kids to discover a pathway out of the pain to find a place where you can let go of that bitterness backpack you've been carrying around.

Here are several ideas for where to start with stories that teach the idea of forgiveness for preschool and lower elementary kids, check these books out:

- "I Love My New Toy!" - Mo Willems
- "No, David!" - David Shannon
- "We All Need Forgiveness" - Mercer Mayer
- "Will You Forgive Me?" - Sally Grindley and Penny Dan
- "The Berenstain Bears and the Forgiving Tree" - Jan and Mike Berenstain
- "The Forgiveness Garden" - Lauren Thompson and Christy Hale
- "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" - Kevin Henkes
- "I Am Extremely Absolutely Boiling" - Lauren Child (Charlie and Lola Book)
- "Enemy Pie" - Derek Munson



For more blog posts and parenting resources, visit: **ParentCue.org**

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FORGIVENESS

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

BOTTOM LINE: Take the first step to forgive others.

Read Mark 11:25

DAY 1

Take the First Step

Grab some friends or family members and play a revised game of "Mother May I." Here's how to play:

To begin the game, the "Mother" stands at one end of a room and turns around facing away, while players line up at the other end. Players take turns asking "Mother, may I ____?" and makes a movement suggestion, like jumping or stepping. For this version, the "Mother's" reply will always be: "You may only take one step forward." For example, if the player asked if they can take five steps forward the mother will reply with, "No, you may only take one step forward." The first of the players to reach the mother wins the game. That child then becomes the mother and the original mother becomes a child, and a new round begins.

Ask God to help you to take the first step towards forgiveness.

DAY 2

Feelings About Forgiveness

Sometimes we have a hard time forgiving others because of how we can feel when we're hurt. We might feel frustrated, embarrassed, or just mad. Talk with your parent about a time that you felt one of those feelings and how you responded. Talk about how the next time you are hurt how you can quickly forgive.

[Hint: Tomorrow's activity is a good thing to do!]

Thank God for giving you people to help you learn about forgiveness.

DAY 3

Keep on Praying

Yesterday, we thought about the way we feel when someone hurts us that may keep us from forgiving them. When we feel those feelings, we can go to God and ask Him to help us! You can talk to God through prayer. Use the prayer below as an example.

"Dear God, Sometimes I don't feel like forgiving someone who hurt me, but I know that I need to. Please help me today to forgive those who made me feel upset. Amen."

Know that God will always help us when we need it.

DAY 4

Walk It Out

With the help of an adult, look up this week's verse: **Mark 11:25**. Read it aloud. Now, since we need to take the first step when it comes to forgiveness, take a walk while you say your verse. To make it easier, have someone read the verse aloud a few words at a time and then echo what they said while walking around your house.

Look for times that you can take the first step to forgive.



TAKE

THE

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FORGIVENESS

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

Read Proverbs 17:9

DAY 1

Forgiveness is hard. Sometimes we'd rather be right and make a point. We want the other person to understand why we're hurt and to somehow guarantee they won't ever mess up and hurt us again. Since no one is perfect, eventually the people you spend time with will mess up and those mess-ups might really mess up your friendship.

When it comes to forgiveness, being right is never more important than your friendship. Winning an argument isn't the goal, protecting the relationship is. If you keep bringing it up to make the other person feel bad, you'll never be close to that person. That's why it's so important to take the first step to forgive.

Place a piece of paper on the floor, put your foot on the page and trace around it to create a footprint. Inside your footprint outline write, "Take the first step to forgive." As you hold up your footprint, ask God to help you forgive so that you can protect your relationships.

Read Luke 17:3-4

DAY 2

Match the OPPOSITES to the right by drawing a line between the two answers.

When someone hurts you, what do you immediately want to do? Do the same thing to them that they've done to you, right?

God has a better way of course. He knows that instead of thinking about how to pay someone back, we should think about how we can win someone back. Because fixing our relationships or friendships is always more important than getting even. So when someone hurts you, instead of trying to get them back, do the opposite! Choose to heal instead of hurt, to forgive instead of getting even.

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| HOT | SHUT |
| LEFT | LOW |
| HURT | NO |
| HIGH | NIGHT |
| DAY | DOWN |
| YES | GOODBYE |
| FRIEND | RIGHT |
| HELLO | ENEMY |
| UP | COLD |
| OPEN | HEAL |

When you find yourself getting angry when you've been hurt, bow your head and ask God to help you do the exact opposite of what you feel like. Instead of paying back to get even, ask God to help you take the first step to forgive.



Read Mark 11:25

DAY 3

Do you sometimes treat God like a vending machine with your prayers? If you put in the time to ask for what you want (like putting a coin into a vending machine) then you'll get back what you've asked for (like a coke or package of chips). The point of prayer isn't to get God to do what we want. The point of prayer is to change us, to make us more like Jesus.

If we want to be more like Jesus, the number one thing we have to take a look at is how we're treating other people. This is especially true when it comes to how we forgive and move on. Is there anyone you're refusing to forgive? Why?

Fill in the blank in the prayer below, asking God to help you take the first step to forgive this week.

***"God, this week, I'm really frustrated with _____.
You already know what happened and why I'm upset.
Can you please help me take the first step to forgive?
I don't want to stay mad but I need your help. Thanks
for loving me God and for choosing to forgive every
time I mess up. In Jesus' name, amen."***



Read Hebrews 12:14

DAY 4

Take a look at the very first sentence in today's verse.

When it comes to forgiveness, to living in peace with others instead of staying mad, what is the key? Yes, simply to try! To try means to attempt, to make an effort, to give it a shot.

So this week, when someone hurts you with their words or actions, just TRY. Take the first step even when you don't feel like it. When you try, you'll be one step closer to living the way God wants you to live.

Write the word TRY on a wide rubber band with a ball point pen. As you wear your bracelet this week, remember to take the first step as you try to forgive.



**Take the
first step to
forgive others.**

Homemade Playdough Recipe

Ingredients:

3 cups flour, whisked or sifted

1 1/2 cups salt

2 tbsp cream of tartar

3 1/4 cup of water

3 tbsp of oil

food coloring

Essential Oils (optional)

Whisk all the dry ingredients together in a large pot until no lumps remain. Whisk in the wet ingredients and stir until no lumps remain. Cook on high for 3-4 minutes until the dough forms. Knead until smooth and uniform in color.

** You can wait to add the food coloring at the end if you want to make more than one color out of the same batch.

** After the dough cools for a bit you can knead in several drops of essential oils! It makes the dough smell delightful.

Store in airtight containers until it dries out!