

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

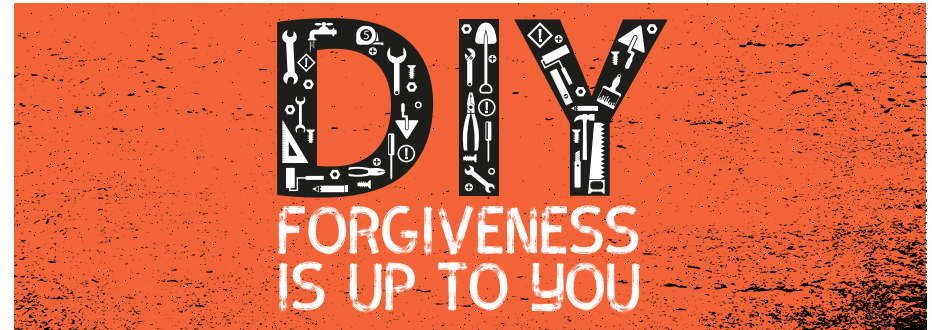
Unless you need to use the videos for Ministry Time, I suggest inviting everyone to watch the kid videos together as a family. That will help open up a discussion about these stories as you go about the rest of your day!

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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ASK THIS:

WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM FORGIVING?



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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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.

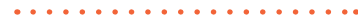
As parents, we try and help them see how forgiveness will free them from the additional hurt that comes. But kids are often too close to the situation to see any other option than letting the bitterness sink in making way for revenge to take over. And so, our words fail us and we need some help.

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 Upper Elementary/ Middle School:

- "Meaniehead" - Bruce Eric Kaplan
- "The Lemonade Crime" - Jacqueline Davies
- "The Hundred Dresses" - Eleanor Estes
- "Shiloh Season" - Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- "The Year the Swallows Came Early" - Kathryn Fitzmaurice
- "Birthdays" - Wendy Mass



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

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WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM FORGIVING?

DAY 5

Read Proverbs 16:18. What does the Bible say might happen if you have pride? You might _____.

In life, we are always moving one direction or another. And each step we take can either be toward life-giving situations: like forgiveness—or it can lead to our own downfall: like pride.

So often pride gets in the way of forgiveness. Maybe we are embarrassed to admit that we've messed up. It definitely takes humility to apologize to someone. Or maybe we are too prideful to forgive someone. We are mad, and we don't think they deserve our forgiveness.

Whether it's pride, anger, embarrassment or any other emotion getting in the way of moving toward forgiveness, we need to release it. In fact, that might be the first step we take: the step over pride, the step over anger. With that obstacle out of the way, forgiveness is in our reach.

Talk to God and ask Him to help you step over whatever might be in your way and keeping you from forgiving someone. Ask Him to help you take a step toward forgiveness today.

FORGIVENESS

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

DAY 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on *Fun2Watch!* then *The So & So Show.*)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: _____

2) YOU LEARNED: _____

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: _____

DAY 2

Read Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24

Using the boxes bellow, draw a comic strip style illustration of Matthew 5:23-24.

<i>(You with a present for God)</i>	<i>(You remembering a past situation you messed up and hurt someone)</i>	<i>(You asking for forgiveness and offering a present to the person you hurt)</i>	<i>(You coming back to pick up your gift and offering it to God)</i>
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Jesus believes forgiving others is so important that He was saying we need to make things right with others before we make things right with God. Whoa!

Making things right with others might mean forgiving them, or it might mean humbling yourself enough to ask someone else for forgiveness. Whatever it takes to make the peace, Jesus challenges us to take the first step.

DAY 3

Taking the first step to forgive—or to ask for forgiveness—neither one of those is an easy step to take.

Today, go on a prayer walk, either around the inside of your house, or with a parent's permission, around the outside or in your neighborhood. With each step you take, talk to God about forgiveness, using one of the situations below:

- If there's a specific situation in your life where you know you need to ask forgiveness, ask God for boldness and courage to take the first step and ask for forgiveness.
- If someone else needs to experience your forgiveness, ask God to help you bravely offer it.
- Or if you feel that you're at peace with everyone right now, ask God to give you a forgiving attitude, so you're always ready to take that first step toward forgiveness.

As you close your prayer, ask God to direct your steps today toward forgiveness.

DAY 4

Yesterday you prayed for courage and boldness to take the first step toward forgiveness.

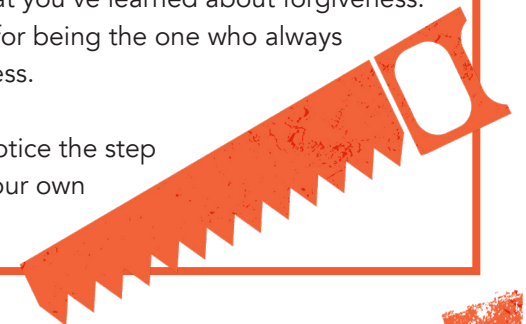
Asking God for help is super important, but now it's time for you to take the first step.

Today, find the person you need to ask forgiveness from—or who you need to forgive—and take that first step. That step will look different based on the situation, but it might look like . . .

- Telling a friend you've been angry because of something they did, but telling them you're not mad any more, and you'd like to make the peace. Suggest something fun you can do together to move on!

- Apologizing to a family member for something you did. Ask for their forgiveness. End the conversation with a hug or a high-five.
- If you don't have any ongoing situations in your life that require forgiveness at the moment, find a friend or family member who also trusts God and share with them what you've learned about forgiveness. Ask them to hold you accountable for being the one who always takes the first step toward forgiveness.

As you walk away from your friend, notice the step you took toward forgiveness made your own steps a lot lighter!



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!