

PARENT GUIDE — PRETEENS

WEEK OF MARCH 22



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, NIV

KEY QUESTION

When has someone forgiven you?

Use this guide to help your family stay connected, and to keep learning what God says about forgiveness.

First, watch this video <https://bit.ly/3d5jH4d> to hear God's truth in a way your kid can understand and enjoy. Then, follow up with the fun activities below!

ACTIVITY: PIN THE TAIL ON THE PIG!

WHAT YOU NEED: paper, pencils, tape, ribbon/pipe cleaner/long skinny strip of paper, blindfold/bandana/eye mask

WHAT YOU DO: Use the Pig Drawing instructions on the next page to draw a pig, making it as large as possible on the paper. Tape the pig drawing to a wall. Then, make the pig tails: take a ribbon, pipe cleaner, or long skinny strip of paper and curl it around the pencil tightly enough that it stays curly when the pencil is removed. Attach a piece of tape to the end. Play a couple rounds of "pin the tail on the pig." Blindfold one person (or have them put their hands over their eyes) and spin them around a couple times. Point them in the direction of the pig drawing on the wall, and let them slowly walk toward it and tape their "pig tail" where they think it should go.

Depending on how many people are in your family, you could let everyone pin two tails on the pig. Whoever gets closest is the winner!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- The story of the father and his two sons is called a parable. What's a parable? (*A parable is a story used to teach something; Jesus frequently told parables to make His point.*)
- Look up the Bible story in Luke 15:11-24, if needed, and encourage your preteen to retell you today's story.
- Ask:
 - How can we sometimes be like the younger son?
 - How is the father like God? What is Jesus teaching us about God's forgiveness in this parable?
 - What is one way you usually respond when you've done something wrong?
 - When have you been forgiven for something?

PRAYER

"God, thank You for giving us this story to help us understand how you always forgive us because you want to have a relationship with us. Forgive us when we do things that break our relationship with you and with the people in our lives. Help us also to forgive those around us when they do things that break our relationship with them. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

