

PARENT GUIDE

ACCESS CHURCH UPSTREET – GRADES K-2 MARCH 15 MEMORY VERSE

Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, then forgive him. Forgive each other because the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

FORT BUILDING COMPETITION

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Our theme this month is DIY in UpStreet. Since we are staying in this month, we have a competition for you! The family who builds the best fort with random objects you find around the house, will win a prize! Post a picture of your fort with the tag #ForStJohns to enter your family in the contest.

ACTIVITY: HARD OR EASY?

WHAT YOU NEED: PAPER, PEN/PENCIL

- Grab two pieces of paper and create two signs. One will say HARD and the other will say EASY.
- Place the signs on the floor or tape them on the wall. Make sure they are a few feet apart.
- Tell the kids you will call out different scenarios. Ask them whether it would be easy or hard to show forgiveness in each scenario (or perhaps somewhere in between). Whichever one they agree with is the side they should go to. Here are the scenarios:
 - Your friend forgot your birthday.
 - Someone made fun of you and wasn't sorry they did it.
 - Your friend promised to save you a seat at lunch, but forgot so you had to eat alone.
 - Your parent was late picking you up from school.
 - Someone made fun of you and realized it was wrong and they were sorry.
 - Your sibling ate all the cookies and you didn't get a single one.

WHAT YOU ASK AFTER: When is it hard to forgive someone? (To prompt kids, ask: Is it easier to forgive someone you like or someone who annoys you? Or how do your feelings affect how easy it is to forgive someone? Is it easy to forgive someone when you are angry? What about if you have already forgiven them and they keep doing the same thing?)



DISCUSSION GUIDE ON FORGIVENESS

- When is it hard to forgive someone? What can keep us from forgiving someone?
- What are things people do when they hold a grudge?
- What have you learned that can help you to take the first step to forgive? How can knowing we are all created in God's image help you to forgive others?

ACTIVITY: BALANCING ACT

WHAT YOU NEED: PENCIL/PEN, MUSIC

- Have your kids stand and spread out as much as possible in a certain area of the house.
- Give each child an object (such as a pencil or a pen) to balance on their head.
- Play upbeat instrumental music or sing a silly song.
- As the music plays, kids must walk around your the area balancing the pencil on their heads.
- If a pencil falls, they must freeze and cannot move again until another someone else picks up their pencil for them.
- Stop the music at regular intervals to allow kids to reset their pencils.
- Play as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU ASK AFTER: "If you dropped the pencil in this game, what happened? (Pause for responses.) Yes! You couldn't move until someone stepped up to help you. In our Bible story today, we learned about how stepping up can make a big difference in our relationships with others."

PRAYER

"Let's pray. God, thank You for loving us and for always choosing to forgive us, even when we don't deserve it. When we're tempted to stay mad or refuse to forgive, help us to make the wise choice and choose to fix the relationship. Instead of just being right or making a point. We want to be a good friend and to love others the way You love us. So this week, help us to take the first step to forgive others. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."