



Family Faith Experience for Sunday, March 15th

Today's Lesson For 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Graders

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness (*Matthew 5:1-2; 23-24*)

BOTTOM LINE: Take the first step to forgive others.

LIFE APP: FORGIVENESS—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

SCRIPTURE 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*)

(Before doing the activity below, read the Bible story aloud or play the video provided for today's Bible story.)

FAMILY ACTIVITY: MEMORY VERSE STEPPIN'

Look up and review Colossians 3:13 together. Cut four pieces of paper in half to create eight cards. Pass out the cards and let your child(ren) work together to write out three words of the memory verse on each card. (*The last card won't necessarily have three words, depending on the Bible translation you use.*) When they're finished, collect the cards and spread them out on the floor in the correct verse order. Make sure the cards are far enough apart so your child(ren) must take BIG steps to get from one set of words to the next.

WHAT YOU SAY: "Our verse reminds us to forgive when we're holding something against someone. Why is it better to forgive than to stay mad or try to prove that we're right? (*Pause for responses.*) When we take steps toward forgiveness, we have a better chance of fixing what's broken. In fact, it's so important that Jesus says we should try to fix the relationship even before we worship Him. When you're tempted to stay mad, ask God to help you choose to forgive instead. He will always help us take the first step to forgive others."

(Tell about a child-appropriate time when you were brave and took a step toward forgiveness with a friend. Share how it made you feel and how it affected the relationship.)