



## **ELEMENTARY RESOURCES FOR VIRTUAL CHURCH**

**MARCH 21 & 22, 2020**

The following are activities that can be done at home to have fun as a family. They go along with the Grace Kids virtual experience (CLIMB or Trek) offered on the Grace Church website ([www.gracechurchco.com/kidsonline](http://www.gracechurchco.com/kidsonline)). They require minimal supplies that can most likely be found around the house.

Some other resources available are:

- Parent Cue app (download for free from your phone's app store) or visit <https://theparentcue.org>
- Check out the [Managing Fear and Anxiety During a Health Pandemic](#) article
- GodTime cards (available as PDFs on the Grace Kids webpage)
- Visit Studio252.tv to watch videos and to find more fun activities
- You can find videos from past weeks in CLIMB (252 Story) and Trek (252 Movie).

If we can support your family during this time of church being online, please feel free to contact me or any of the Family Ministries staff.

**BLESSINGS,**

**KARLA MORGAN**

**ELEMENTARY DIRECTOR**

**GRACE CHURCH OF ARVADA**

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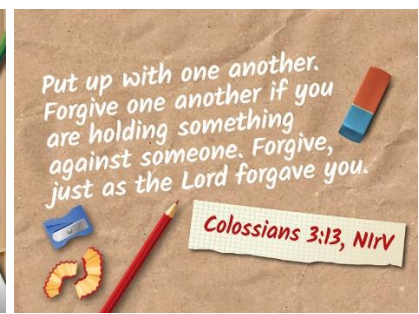
**MARCH LIFE APP**



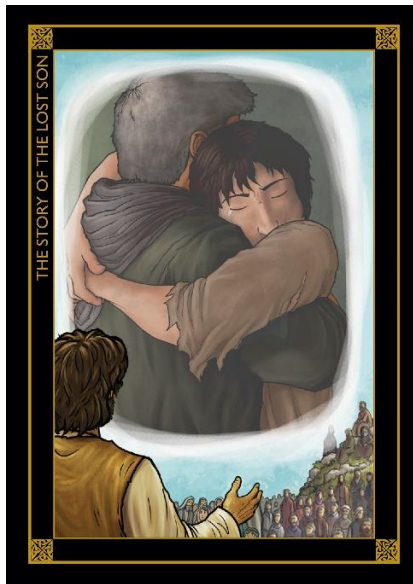
**MARCH THEME**



**MARCH MEMORY VERSE**



**CLIMB BOTTOM LINE**



**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**



**TREK KEY QUESTION**

## JUST FOR FUN

Since our theme for March is D.I.Y. in Elementary, I have another fun building challenge for your family! Since we are staying in this weekend, this challenge can be done at home.

Your challenge is to make the word FORGIVE with objects found in your kitchen (example below). Post a picture of your word on our [Grace Kids Facebook page](#) (or tag us @GraceKidsCo) or email them to [karlamorgan@gracechurchco.com](mailto:karlamorgan@gracechurchco.com) so I enter your challenge into the competition.

The winning family will get 50 Grace Bucks for their kid(s) to spend at the Grace Kids Store.



# BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**What You Need:** 8 pieces of paper, markers, crayons, or colored pencils

## What You Do:

- **Gather** around a table in your home.
- **Tell** your kid(s) to draw to retell the Bible story. Parents can join in on the fun as well!  
Use the following 8 “scenes” from the story:
  - A father has two sons.
  - The younger son demanded his share of the family’s wealth, and his father gave it all to him.
  - The younger son packed up and moved away.
  - The younger son spent all his money and had no more to buy food.
  - The younger son had to get a job feeding pigs.
  - The younger son knew he made a mistake and headed home to ask for forgiveness. But before he even got home, his father saw him in the distance.
  - The father asked for a robe, ring, and sandals for his younger son because he was lost and now was found.
  - The father forgave the younger son and had a party to celebrate his return home.
- As a family, **retell** the story using the pictures kids drew. Make sure everyone’s picture is included in the story line.
- **Ask:** *Tip: Consider asking the questions while everyone is drawing.*
  - 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*)
  - 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?
  - **Facilitate** discussion so the kids have the opportunity to tell the story of God’s forgiveness. Just like the younger son did things that kept him from having a relationship with his father, we do things that keeps us from having a relationship with God. God sent Jesus to make a way for to fix our relationship with God so we have God’s forgiveness and we can be with Him now and forever.
  - **Emphasize** that God’s forgiveness is for everyone, and God doesn’t hold a grudge.

## APPLICATION ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** Masking tape to make a straight line and a squiggly line on the floor (Feel free to get creative if you don't have masking tape. You can use yarn, paper, or anything else you have on hand.)

**What You Do:**

- Take turns walking on the lines and trying to balance without touching the floor where there's no tape.
- After everyone has had a turn, make it harder by challenging everyone to hop on one foot or jump along the lines.

**What You Say**

"That was hard balancing on the lines. Sometimes you fell off or made a mistake. You and I make mistakes all the time—sometimes every day—just like the son in our story today made mistakes. Was he forgiven by his dad? *(Pause.)* Was he forgiven by God? *(Pause.)*

"We can also be forgiven when we make mistakes. Can you tell me about a time when someone forgave you? *(Encourage your kid(s) to share some stories about times someone forgave them. They may need some prompting. Maybe a parent forgave them for yelling mean things or for being disobedient. Or perhaps a friend forgave them when they accidentally broke the friend's toy.)* It's such a great feeling when someone forgives us, isn't it? And it's also a great feeling when we forgive someone else. Let's remember that the next time we need to forgive someone. **Everyone needs to be forgiven**—and that includes you and me!"

# MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** Bibles, paper scraps, pens or pencils, *optional: plastic Easter eggs*

**What You Do:**

- Look up Colossians 3:13 and read it aloud.
- Write out the verse on the paper scraps—two or three words per scrap of paper. Count the paper scraps.
- When you finish, fold the papers in half and ask the kids to cover their eyes as you hide them around your house.
- Once all the words are hidden, challenge your kid(s) to find all of the paper scraps and put the verse in order.
- Review their work by repeating the verse together as a family.
- Play as many times as your kid(s) are interested. Give your kid(s) the opportunity to hide them for the parent(s) to find.
- *Optional: Since Easter is coming up, you can always hide the scraps of paper inside plastic eggs if you have them.*

**What You Say:**

“One BIG truth about forgiveness is that everyone needs it! We all mess up. When we do, we can be sure that God will ALWAYS forgive us. Our memory verse for this month reminds us to forgive because God has forgiven us. If you find yourself refusing to forgive this week, ask God to help you remember that **everyone needs to be forgiven.**”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one way you respond when you've done something wrong?
- When has someone forgiven you? **Encourage** your kid(s) to share examples and talk about how it felt to be forgiven.
- What about when you've forgiven someone else? How do you think they felt?
  - **Encourage** your kid(s) to share. *(Be prepared to share an age-appropriate example of when someone forgave you. Maybe you forgot to meet your friend for lunch like you said you would and your friend didn't hold it against you and simply rescheduled another time to get together. Or you borrowed a tool from a friend and it broke, but your friend didn't make you buy a new one to replace it.)*
- We all make mistakes and we need to not only ask for forgiveness, forgive others, but also forgive ourselves. What do you think it means to forgive yourself? Why is it important to forgive yourself?

## PRAY AS A FAMILY

**What You Need:** Deflated balloon

- Gather together and ask them if there is anyone they need to forgive this week. (Instruct kids to think about this silently and keep their answers in their minds without saying names aloud.)
- Blow up the balloon with air and hold the end closed.
- Let the air out as you use the dialogue below to talk about why forgiveness is important.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help your family let it go and choose to forgive.

**What You Say:**

"What might happen if I kept on blowing up this balloon? *(Pause.)* Yes, it will pop! This balloon is like us when we refuse to forgive and choose instead to stay mad. When we choose to let go of our anger, remembering that **everyone needs to be forgiven**, *(let the air out of the balloon)* then everyone wins! Let's pray and ask God to help us choose forgiveness this week!"

"God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we could be forgiven! We don't want to stay angry and blow up and do something unkind. Help us to let it go and choose to forgive. Thank You for showing us how to do that. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

**VISIT THE GRACE KIDS ONLINE PAGE TO DOWNLOAD A  
GODTIME CARD FOR YOUR CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL  
(KINDERGARTEN-1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE, 2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE, OR 4<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE) FOR MORE ACTIVITIES.**

