



ELEMENTARY RESOURCES FOR VIRTUAL CHURCH

MARCH 28 & 29, 2020

The following are activities that can be done at home to have fun as a family and to go further into the Bible story we focused on in the Grace Kids virtual experience (CLIMB or Trek) offered on the Grace Church website (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>
- 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

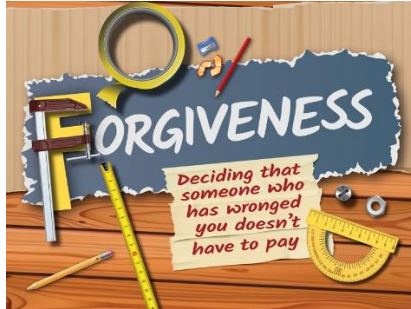
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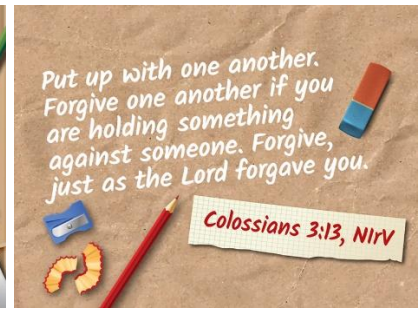
MARCH LIFE APP



MARCH THEME



MARCH MEMORY VERSE



CLIMB BOTTOM LINE



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY



TREK KEY QUESTION

JUST FOR FUN

For our final D.I.Y. challenge in March, build a birdhouse just like Miss Esther did in the video this week! But don't use wood, nails, or any other typical tools. Use what you have in your house, such as food. You could maybe use graham crackers for the walls and frosting as cement. That's just an idea...I know you have some creative ideas! I can't wait to see what you come up with!

Post a picture of your work on our [Grace Kids Facebook page](#) (or tag us @GraceKidsCo) or email them to karlamorgan@gracechurchco.com so I enter your challenge into the competition. We will then do a drawing of all the families who completed a birdhouse. 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: A Bible, individual sized wrapped candy (or fruit snacks or something similar in size that kids have to open) – one for each of your kids, cotton balls

What You Do:

- **Ask:**
 - What was the father's response to the younger brother's return?
 - How would you describe the older brother when he found out his father threw a party celebrating the younger son's return? *(If necessary, read Luke 15:28-29. Answers could include: angry, bitter, jealous, ungrateful)*
 - What was the older brother missing out on by choosing to hold onto his negative emotions toward his brother?
 - What was the father's response to his older son? *(Luke 15:31)*
- Even though what his younger brother did was wrong, the older son had a choice to make. The older brother could decide to let go of his anger and bitterness or he could hold on to it and decide his younger brother should pay.
- **Place** a wrapped piece of candy in front of each kid and **give** each kid a cotton ball.
- **Give** kids time to think of something they may be holding against someone. Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly. Maybe someone flattened a tire on their bike or broke their favorite toy. Maybe they are angry at someone for not doing what they said they would do. Or prompt kids to think about how the older brother was holding onto his anger and resentment.
- **Explain** that the cotton ball represents something you're holding against someone.
- **Tell** kids hold on to the cotton ball with both hands and squeeze as tightly as they can.
- While squeezing the cotton ball with both hands, **challenge** kids to unwrap the candy using only their hands.
- **Tell** kids to open their hands so the cotton ball is resting on their palms.
- Just like you cannot grab onto the candy while focusing on squeezing the cotton ball, when you are holding on to grudges and focusing on how you may have been wronged, you could miss out on a lot. *(e.g. friendships, good times with others, joy, a party [like the older brother missed out on], etc.)*

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

What You Need: A cake or cupcakes (or whatever yummy treat your family likes); party hats ([click here](#) for directions to make your own); any other party supplies you have on hand

What You Do:

- Make party hats as a family. Feel free to decorate an area in your house for a party with streamers, balloons, banners, etc. to make it feel like a party.
- Set the treats in the center of a table, but do not allow the kids to touch them yet.
- Talk about the choices the older brother in our story made.
 - How did the father react when his son returned? (*He forgave him and threw a huge party to celebrate his son's return*)
 - Where was the older brother when the younger son returned? (*Working in the field*)
 - How did the older brother react when he found out that the party was for his younger brother who'd returned home? (*He was angry*)
 - What did the older brother say to the father? (*"All these years I have worked, I've obeyed. You've never thrown me a party."*)
 - Why do you think the older brother was SO mad? Can you relate to this?
 - Why do you think the father celebrated in such a big way?
- Have a party as a family to celebrate forgiveness, just as the father did when his son came back. Maybe decorate the cake or cupcakes together.
 - We would love to see pictures of your celebration. Post them on the [Grace Kids Facebook](#) page (or tag us @GraceKidsCo).

What You Say:

"Most people can relate to the older brother in this story. He's right; he was the one who had stayed, the one who worked hard and honored his dad. But he missed out. Because he thought it was more important to be right than to forgive, he missed the opportunity to celebrate his brother's return. Sometimes we do the same thing. We want to make a point or prove that we're right and the other person is wrong. But in the end, your friendship is WAY more important than winning an argument. We need to offer forgiveness when someone apologizes and means it. Because **when you don't forgive, you miss out.**"

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Jenga® or similar block tower game; Bible

What You Do:

- Carefully take the tower game out of its carton so that it already stands up on its own, or quickly build it up.
- Take turns taking blocks from the tower.
- Eventually, the tower will fall or become extremely unsteady.
- Read Colossians 3:13 from the Bible. Say it together and let kids put blocks back into the tower to build it up and make it strong.
 - We use the NIV translation for our Bible verses in Grace Kids. However, you can use any translation for this activity.
 - NIV version: 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

What You Say:

“When we took blocks away from this tower and held onto them, it grew unsteady and eventually fell down. When we hold onto resentment and anger, it’s like taking away pieces of our hearts from our friends and families. Eventually, those strong relationships get weak and might fall apart. Have you ever had trouble with a friend or family member because you felt like you just couldn’t forgive them?”

“Just like our tower got weak and fell down when we held onto those blocks, and our relationships had problems when we held onto anger, **when you don’t forgive, you miss out.**”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What can it cost you to hold a grudge? For example, what might you miss out on if you decided to hold a grudge and not forgive a friend?
- What if a friend says something unkind to you and they never say they are sorry? Do you still forgive them? Do you only forgive someone if they ask you?
- Is forgiveness always fair? How does it make you feel when it's not fair? *(Parent tip: Be prepared to share about a time when someone treated you unfairly or when you were mad at someone for how they treated you. Did you forgive them right away? Did it take you time to forgive them? How did you feel when you decided to forgive them? Did you miss out on something because you wanted to make them pay?)*

PRAY AS A FAMILY

“Heavenly Father, thank You for always offering forgiveness to us, just like the father in this story Jesus told. When we feel like holding onto anger like the older brother, would you please help us choose to forgive instead? We definitely need Your help to do that. We love and trust You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

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