

Respect

LIFE WEEK

God Calls Us to Forgive One Another as He Forgives Us

A Lesson on Forgiveness and God's Love

Grades 1-3

Goal: Help the children discover how God calls us to forgive one another, as He has forgiven us.

Diving into Dignity

What is human dignity?

Human dignity is the value of human persons. Every person has dignity and it can never be taken away. Our dignity means we matter and should be treated with respect. We'll be learning more about human dignity during our lessons this week.

Based on the Human Dignity Curriculum (World Youth Alliance)

Lesson: Sometimes, we choose to do the wrong thing. These choices are called sins. Our sins hurt God and others. We know that God loves us no matter what. He forgives us when we sin. He asks us to forgive others.

Read: [The Prodigal Son](#)

Discussion:

Why did the younger son want his father to give him money?

How did the father feel—what did he tell his son?

Did the son spend the money wisely?

What did he do?

How did the son feel when he had no more money?

What did the son decide to do?

How did the son say he was sorry?

How did the father answer him?

How did the older son feel about his brother when he returned?

What did the father tell the older son?

Were both sons wrong? Why?

Did the father forgive both sons?

Activity: Act out the story of the Prodigal Son. Identify students for the parts of: father, first son, second son, landowner, animals and party-goers. Prepare the students for their parts for just a few minutes—they should easily remember from the video. Act out the story, allowing the children to make up the words and have fun with the story.

Activity: Do one of the following crafts/activities. Help the Prodigal Son find his way home [maze](#), [story sequencing exercise](#) or [muddy pig craft](#).

Discussion: Ask students to recall experiences of making up with friends or family members. They can recall times when differences were settled with an apology, a handshake, a hug, etc. Discuss the many different ways to say “I’m sorry.” Jesus wants us to understand the need to be sorry when we have done something wrong and, in turn, celebrate God’s forgiveness. When we are forgiving, we are living as followers of Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, I’m sorry for the times I have chosen to do the wrong thing. Thank you for forgiving me. Help me to forgive other people. Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website