

LEARNING TO FORGIVE

GRADES PK-K – Lesson 2

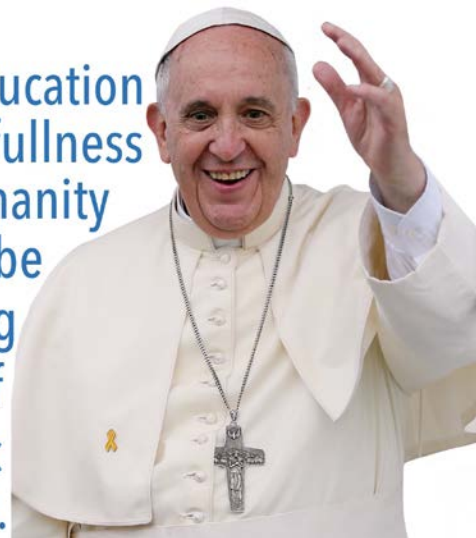
GOAL: Students will learn about the importance of offering forgiveness to their neighbors. Students will learn of God's forgiveness for all of them and how they are called to forgive others likewise. God is all-merciful and all-just, and here on earth, we try to imitate His mercy just as we saw Jesus do in the gospels. Everyone makes mistakes and that doesn't make them a bad person; through the parable of the Prodigal's Son, students will see how God embraces and welcomes those who have wronged Him and repented because He is forgiving.

Lesson:

Forgiveness and mercy are needed for everyone. Everyone makes bad choices, but our bad choices do not define us.

Students will learn about how God offers forgiveness and we are to offer forgiveness in our day-to-day lives when someone wrongs us. Some bad choices have smaller consequences and some have larger consequences.

“An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of Catholic schools.”



Bible Story: [Veggie Tales Prodigal's Son](#)

The story of the Prodigal's Son shows us how God wants us to come back to Him when we've turned away and He will always forgive us. Jesus died on the cross so that our sins would be forgiven and we could be with Him forever in heaven. All we must do is be sorry for our sins, try our best to do good, and love God and our neighbor with all of our hearts.

Discussion:

Emphasize the mercy the father had towards the son because the lesson is focused on learning to forgive rather than asking for forgiveness.

- How did the son think that his dad would treat him when he came back to beg for a job?
- Do you think he was surprised when his dad offered him mercy instead of anger?
- Why was the dad merciful instead of angry? *Answer: Because he loved his son*
- When we do something wrong like hitting our sibling or not listening to our parents what should we do? Should we hide in our rooms or should we ask them and God for forgiveness? God forgives us for all of our sins we are sorry for and we should never be scared to ask Him for mercy.
- When someone does something wrong to us what should we do? Should we hold a grudge? No, we should forgive just like God forgives us when we do something wrong to Him. Holding grudges feels bad too, forgiveness offers us freedom.

Read:

Find the story [“The Bad Neighbors”](#) and project it on the board as you read. Lead a discussion about how misunderstandings can lead to misplaced anger. We should never attribute bad intentions to anyone, rather, we should expect the best as Jesus would. Talk with the students about how the story would have changed if one of the neighbors had offered forgiveness rather than revenge.

Activity:

[Video reference for craft](#)

Supplies: Construction paper, staples or tape

Optional but recommended: Tin foil and pipe cleaners

Children will need a few strips of construction paper, two pipe cleaners, and two strips of tin foil. Help them to create their chain and talk about holding on to anger when someone hurts them that can keep them “chained.” Once everyone has their handcuffs, ask them to get in a circle and put them on. Play [this song](#) and tell the children they can break their chains, dance, and sing when they hear the word “freedom.” (around 40 seconds)

Prayer:

*Dear God,
Thank you for forgiving me when I do something wrong.
Please help me to forgive others.
Amen*