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| Surprise KIDS**Mar. 29, 2020**  |  |
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| ***MUSIC -*** ***This Little Light of Mine:*** [***https://youtu.be/RGWC6\_SjHKQ***](https://youtu.be/RGWC6_SjHKQ)***Fruit of the Spirit Song:*** [***https://youtu.be/Rezg4jYFoj0***](https://youtu.be/Rezg4jYFoj0) |

**OBJECT LESSON ACTIVITY:**  **Jesus Forgives and Cleanses Us from Our Sins****RELATED SCRIPTURES:**Hebrews 4:16, 1 John 1:9**OBJECTS NEEDED:**One cup of maple syrup, cup of granulated sugar, one cup of uncooked rice, warm water, soap and towels.Place where you have access to warm water. (Note: sticky things will not come off of hands with only cold water!)Put ingredients in their own cups.**LESSON:***Pour a quarter-sized dab of sugar in your kids’ or volunteer’s hand.*Go ahead! Lick it! Try not to make a mess! Isn’t that delicious? What are some of your favorite ‘sugary’ things? We’ve been told by all the experts that sugar is not good for us. Sugar is a little like sin. It might taste really good to eat sugar, and it might actually feel good committing a sin. For example, if someone makes you mad, and you call them a bad name”, it might make us feel good for a moment, but that doesn’t make it right. When we eat sugar, it tastes really good. But it also corrodes our teeth, makes us restless, and later, when our blood sugar drops, it can make us tired and grouchy.Let’s pretend somebody accidentally stepped on our lunch at school and ruined our sandwich. Now we’ve got less to eat, we’re going to be hungry by 3 this afternoon and we were looking so forward to that sandwich. So we yell at the person: “You dummy! I cannot believe you just did that, you are a meanie! I don’t like you!That’s the “sin” that’s like this sugar in your palm. It tasted good, didn’t it? And it might have felt great to say something hurtful. But now, try to open and close your palm. What has happened?***It’s sticky.***If you don’t say you’re sorry for a sin and ask God to wash it away, that stickiness makes things worse – it makes it easier to sin the next time. Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us therefore come boldly to Jesus, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” We should. What happens if we don’t?***Add a quarter sized dollop of syrup to their palms.***Now, we’ve got a slightly bigger mess, don’t we? It still tastes good”- go ahead! Tell me what it is!  ***Syrup.***So, let’s say you didn’t ask God’s forgiveness for that last thing you did. This time somebody knocks your bike over, and the chain comes off. You remember the look of fear you put on the kid’s face who stepped on your sandwich. It felt kind of powerful having people fear you, didn’t it? You remember that. This time, it’s easier. “How could you be such an jerk! Don’t you even know how to walk? Are you blind? Didn’t you see my bike?”Now, make a fist and open it. That stickiness is getting to be a mess, isn’t it? But! It still tastes sweet. **Taste it again.**But eventually, if you don’t ask God to help you stop, you’ll find it stops tasting good. Sometimes after we’re mean, we go home at night and when we’re all alone in our beds, we remember the hurt on the other person’s face. We know how we would feel if somebody spoke that way to us. What is that icky feeling called when you know you hurt someone else? Guilt.***Go around and put a quarter sized dollop of rice in each person’s hand.***Now, we’ve got the stickiness of our sin, a greater stickiness because we didn’t ask forgiveness and it was easy to attract another sin. And now we’ve got guilt, and guilt means our sin isn’t enjoyable. It doesn’t taste good!So, what do we do? First thing to know: It’s never too late to ask for Jesus’ forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Let’s get rid of this sticky mess, shall we?*Show everyone to the sink. Or if you have warm water in your classroom, put the bowl in the middle of the table with a couple bars of soap. Have children take turns using the soap to get the stickiness off. You may need a washcloth or paper towels also.*Jesus is like this container of soap. He’s always available to take away our sins – to keep us from getting sticky and messy and hurting others. Let’s all thank Jesus for his love and forgiveness, no matter how big of a mess we’ve made.**BIBLE STORY –**In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about an older brother who lost out on something really awesome because he refused to forgive. Let’s go!”**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! Last week we talked about a parable that Jesus told, but we didn’t finish it. We saved the ending for today! “What’s a parable? Well, when Jesus wanted to share something important, He would often use a story to explain what He meant. The religious leaders—the Pharisees—were grumbling about Jesus because He loved EVERYONE— not just the people who followed the rules. Jesus forgave people when they made a mistake. “Jesus knew what these Pharisees were thinking. They thought they were better than everybody else because they followed the rules so well. So Jesus told a story about a man with two sons. We told the first part last week. Let’s do a quick recap to get up to speed. **STORYTELLER:** “All right! Let’s recap. (Reading from the script) Previously on The Story of the Lost Son . . .” **YOUNGER SON:** (To the father) “Father, give me my share of the family property” (Luke 15:12 NIrV). **FATHER:** (To the younger son) “Why, son? Why? (Pause.) Oh, all right.” **YOUNGER SON:** “Yay! Party, party, party!” The younger son quickly runs over to the other side of the stage. **YOUNGER SON:** “Oh, no! My money ran out, and now I have to feed these pigs while I starve. I’m so hungry I’m going to eat pig slop. **YOUNGER SON:** “Wait! I’ve got an idea. I’ll go home to see my father and beg for mercy!” **FATHER:** “Is that my son in the distance? Yay!The father hugs the younger son. **FATHER:** “Let’s throw a party in honor of my lost son’s return!”The father and the younger son do some silly dance moves **STORYTELLER:** (Looking up; not reading from the script) “So, although the younger son wasted all of his money, his father welcomed him back and forgave him. It seemed like the perfect ending to a happy story! But Jesus wasn’t done telling the story yet. As you may remember, there was . . . (look at the older son) the older brother!” The older son steps forward dramatically, scowling and crossing his arms. **STORYTELLER:** “The father’s older son was working in the fields. The older son picks up the shovel and pretends to dig. **STORYTELLER:** “Suddenly, he heard a strange sound.” **OLDER SON**: “What is that noise? (Looking across.) Wait—are they having a party over there?” **STORYTELLER**: “The older son was confused. Why would they be having a party? He called for a servant to see what was going on. “The servant said: “Your brother has come home . . . Your father has killed the fattest calf. He has done this because your brother is back safe and sound.” “His lost brother had finally come home! But the older son didn’t see that as a reason to celebrate.” The older son rolls his eyes and frowns.**OLDER SON:** “How could my father do this to me? There’s no way I’m going in there.” **STORYTELLER:** “So the father came out and begged the older son to come join the party.” The father walks over to the older son. **FATHER:** (To the older son) “My son, please come and celebrate with us.” **OLDER SON:** (To the father) “Look! All these years . . . I have always obeyed you. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours wasted your money. . . . Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!” (Luke 15:29-30 NIrV) **STORYTELLER**: “The father explained: I’m just so happy that my younger son has come home! I love you too!”**FATHER:** (To the older son) “My son . . . everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found” (Luke 15:31-32 NIrV). **STORYTELLER:** “That’s where Jesus ended the story. He didn’t say if the older son listened to his father. It’s up to us to imagine it for ourselves. “I wonder . . . did the older son join the celebration with his family and friends? Did he give up on the jealousy and hurt he felt? Did he choose to forgive his brother?“Or did he stay outside? Did he stay angry because he didn’t think his father was being fair? Did he stay mad at his brother because he didn’t think his brother DESERVED to have a party? “The problem with choosing NOT to forgive is that we miss out on the good things God is doing in our lives and in the lives of the people around us. The truth is, ALL of us have messed up. All of us need forgiveness. When you choose to forgive someone, it’s an amazing way to treat others the way you want to be treated. “When people experience God’s love and forgiveness for themselves, that’s a reason to celebrate! God wants us to experience the joy of forgiveness, and He wants us be happy for others who are forgiven, too. “Let’s ask God to help us forgive . . . so we don’t miss out!”**PRAY:** “God, it can be tough when we feel like someone doesn’t deserve forgiveness. It seems unfair when we have to forgive someone when they won’t even say they’re sorry. But God, it helps when we remember how WE have experienced Your forgiveness for ourselves. Your forgiveness is for everyone! Please help us to forgive like You do so that we can join the celebration instead of missing out. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.” **CRAFT: Easy to Make Heart Suncatchers**This is a simple craft that I feel goes along with forgiveness, but also fun to put in a window during the time in our world right now. My family has participated in the #aworldofhearts campaign and this would be another great why to display hearts for those out walking and share some cheer and love. **HEART SUNCATCHERS SUPPLIES:**Contact Paper (if you don’t have contact paper I believe you could cut a sandwich bag and use both sides in place of the contact paper)Red/Pink construction PaperWhite tissue paperRed tissue paperPink tissue paperScotch or masking tapeScissors**HEART SUNCATCHERS DIRECTIONS:**Cut tissue paper into squares and place in three different bowls –  1 bowl for pink, 1 for red, and 1 for white.Next, cut heart out of contact paper (leave backing on).Trace contact paper heart on construction paper and cut out. Create a heart shaped frame by cutting the inside of the construction paper heart out.Peel back off of contact paper and place on table, sticky side up.Place two small pieces of tape to hold heart to the table.Allow kids to put the tissue paper squares on the contact paper pushing down so it sticks. Then can go over the edges (the excess will be trimmed later).Once contact paper heart is completely covered in tissue paper squares cut of excess tissue paper.Sticking with tape or hot glue place the construction paper heart over finished contact paper heart.  Trim off any excess.https://familyfoodandtravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Heart-Suncatchers-Craft.jpg***ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:******OPTION #1:* PRODIGAL SON PUPPET:**Give each child a brown or white paper lunch bag, markers, yarn for hair, eyes, and brown felt for the children to glue items on the paper bag to make a "prodigal son" puppet. Sit in a circle after the bags are completed and have the bag puppets take turns in telling what bad choices he made and what a celebration his father had for him when he returned home. You can ask the bag puppets questions if the children have trouble telling a part of the story.***OPTION #2:*** **CELEBRATION AND FEAST TIME:**Let your child/children spread a fancy tablecloth on a long table and decorate it with paper plates and balloons, bright colored napkins and small treats for the celebration. Children will LOVE decorating the table together with streamers and confetti. Let the children sit around the table and THANK GOD for HIS forgiveness when we make wrong choices and CELEBRATE God's love together, while enjoying their lunch OR snack foods, cupcakes, chips, ice cream, etc!!! It’s imagination time, so use little nut cups, or brightly colored cups or whatever will help the children to enjoy and realize the CELEBRATION!***OPTION#3: Video – The Prodigal Son, Beginner’s Bible***[***https://youtu.be/W-FH62O\_9sI***](https://youtu.be/W-FH62O_9sI)[http://bit.ly/1LpvTeF](https://www.youtube.com/redirect?q=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F1LpvTeF&redir_token=VH4sPEmoleReQVKGzQPK-MqFxAJ8MTU4NTM0MTg3MkAxNTg1MjU1NDcy&v=W-FH62O_9sI&event=video_description) | BIBLE STORYI Don’t Want to Miss a ThingFather and Older Brother Luke 15:21-32MEMORY VERSEForgive, just as the Lord forgave you.Colossians 3:13LIFE APPForgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to payBOTTOM LINEWhen you don’t forgive, you miss out.BASIC TRUTHI should treat others the way I want to be treated. |
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