

**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, no matter what others do to hurt us, as he has forgiven us, no matter what we may have done to offend him.

**Lesson:**

Watch: [Story of the Prodigal Son](#) Animated video of the great Bible story of forgiveness. 26 minutes.

Shorter version: [Prodigal Son video](#). 2.5 minutes

Questions: Why did the younger son want his father to give him money? (long version)

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 apologize? How did the father answer him?

How did the older son feel about his brother when he returned? (long version)

What did the father tell the older son? (long version)

Were both sons wrong? Why? (long version)

Was the son wrong? Why? (short version)

Did the father forgive both sons? (long version)

Did the father forgive his son? (short version)

**Activity:**

Help the Prodigal Son find his way home [maze](#).

Have the students print and cutout the Prodigal Son [story sequencing exercise](#), have them staple it into a book, or label each drawing in the order that it goes in the story.

Have the students print the [Coloring page](#) for Prodigal son and color

**Discussion:**

Ask students to recall experiences of making up with friends or family. They can recall times when differences were settled with an apology, a handshake, a hug, etc. Jesus explains the theme for us so that we understand the need to be sorry when we have done wrong and, in turn, celebrate God's forgiveness.

This theme helps us to live as followers of Jesus by forgiving those who have hurt us. Discuss the many different ways to say "I'm sorry."

Say this prayer with the students about saying sorry and forgiveness

**Prayer:**

To say that I'm sorry  
Is sometimes hard to do.  
So sometimes I like to say it  
By things I do for you.

To make up isn't easy  
It hurts sometimes inside.  
But after I have done it,  
I'm glad that I have tried.