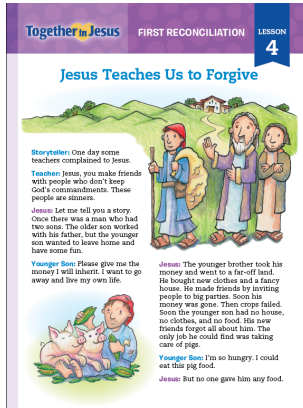


Together in Jesus

First Reconciliation Preparation Child's Book At-a-Glance

Lesson 4 – Jesus Teaches Us to Forgive



Objectives of Lesson 4

1. Your child will identify hurtful and hard-to-forgive actions.
2. Your child will recognize God is forgiving.
3. Your child will recognize that Jesus calls him or her to forgive.

OVERVIEW

Jesus' parable in Luke's Gospel about the father with two sons, one prodigal and one hardworking, is about more than the younger son's change of heart and return home. It's also about how the father runs out to welcome him, accepts him anew as a son, and celebrates his return. It is about how jealous the older son seems to feel and how reluctant he is to join the celebration. This is a parable about relationships familiar even to children.

The younger son breaks his relationship with his father. Only after wasting his inheritance and winding up without friends or food does he recognize how good he had it as a son in his father's household.

The father's generous welcome and forgiveness expresses the limitless mercy of God. Jesus' parable makes it clear that God welcomes sinners who come back and seek forgiveness.

The older son's feelings may be familiar to many children who do what parents and teachers ask with little demand for attention. The younger brother's actions affect the older brother as well as the father. Sins are unloving actions that have real effects on those around us.

In Lesson 4 Jesus' story of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23–35) turns into a story about how three children in a family treat each other. It is a story of unfairness, a concept important to children as their moral thinking develops.

Children can recognize how others feel and think, but this knowledge does not yet usually affect how they behave. The central theme of this lesson helps your children grasp the principal of forgiving others the way they want to be forgiven.

Scripture: The lesson emphasizes the breaking and healing of family relationships in Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–24) and the merciful father.

VIDEOS

With your child, click [here](#) and select one or more of the suggested videos for Lesson 4.

