

## Intermediate Lesson

### *Father, Forgive Us*



**FOCUS:** *We need to seek forgiveness regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

**OBJECTIVES:** After completing this lesson, the children will be able to:

- Recall that forgiveness is a gift we receive again and again in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Explain the connection between wrong choices and sin.
- Know the importance of seeking forgiveness for their sins.
- Describe the prodigal son story in their own words.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- empty box with a lid (shoe box or dress-shirt box)
- gift wrap
- scissors
- ribbon
- tape
- index card or piece of paper with the word “forgiveness” printed on it

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

**Leader** Jesus, we gather here to pray in your name. We know we have hurt our family and friends. We have failed others by our wrong choices. Be with us today as we take time to look deep into our hearts and think about these choices and seek forgiveness. Help us to become more loving and forgiving like you.

**All** Amen.

**ACTIVITY:**      *The Gift of God's Forgiveness*<sup>1</sup>

**MAIN POINT**

God gives up his gift of forgiveness when we are baptized. Forgiveness is like a present we can open again and again through the sacrament of reconciliation.

**PREPARATION**

Place the paper or card on which you have written the word "forgiveness" inside a small box. Wrap the box like a gift with wrapping paper and ribbon. (You may wish to wrap the lid separately so the package can be reused.)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Tell the children you have a gift you would like to share with them. Take out the gift and wonder aloud what might be in the box. Open the box and show the children the word on the card inside. Talk about what "forgiveness" means. Explain to the children that one of the gifts we receive at baptism is forgiveness from our sins. We still sometimes sin after baptism; however, God makes this forgiveness available to us again and again through the sacrament of reconciliation.

**SCRIPTURE STORY:**    Luke 15:11-32

***The Forgiving Father -The Gospel Alive Series for Children***<sup>2</sup>

This familiar Scripture story from Luke helps children learn about God's great compassion and forgiveness. Gina is challenged to forgive her younger sister Annie as well as seeking forgiveness herself.

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<sup>1</sup> This material was excerpted from Teach It! Penance and Reconciliation published by Our Sunday Visitor. Permission to reproduce copyrighted materials for use was extended by Our Sunday Visitor, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN, 46750. 1-800-348-2440. Website: [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com). No other use of this material is authorized.

<sup>2</sup> "The Forgiving Father -The Gospel Alive Series for Children" Call RCL Benziger at 1-877-ASK-4-RCL (1-877-275-4725).  
ORDER NUMBER: 0-382-36764-2 VHS / ORDER NUMBER: 1-4182-5347-2 DVD

**DISCUSSION:** The children will discuss the story at the appropriate talking points as indicated in the video and the video guide.

**ACTIVITY:** The children will complete The Prodigal Son word search with a partner. (Attached)

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Leader** Merciful and loving God, like the father of the prodigal son, you are always ready to forgive. During these 40 days of Lent we will think about our wrong choices. We are sorry for our sins. We want to make good choices because we love you.

**All** Amen.

**TAKE HOME ACTIVITY:**

The Prodigal Son story sheet will be completed at home and returned next week. Answers will be shared as a large group activity. (Attached)

# The Prodigal Son



Read this parable in Luke 15: 11-32. Then write your answers to the following questions:

What are you seeing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are you hearing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are you feeling? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When did your parents forgive you? What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Prodigal Son

K B S S V I W W D P V U G E R Y R H Q D Y A S H N  
 J R G E U M B Q B Y T O C E A E Z I R W R K M G F  
 K I I G R V O N V O O N M T T J H T L O G L B A O  
 P Q D S R V K N P D A Q R V Z F H T W A N G E R U  
 H D H A S P A R E T E L B H N O S V O N U O O Z N  
 M B P R E E O N N Y R S P S D C W F A R H J O U D  
 M M S D M D N E T V Y V L T B E T C C R B I T G Q  
 H O X L I I P E A S W N M A Q C Y I E C T E E I J  
 V Z R G D E J F V L O G M R L L C H M B A M J K D  
 R F A V R N F R V I N W P V R P T F E L F D E T M  
 V L E D Q O R I N G G L X I C A H C G O S Y K C S  
 E C N A T I R E H N I R E N F E R R Q S E N Q T N  
 N P K G W T I A E Q L U O G X Y A O U T M F I Y H  
 G J J R P A H Z Z M J R J F A C P Q B I O A L S T  
 G Y B Z N R G N I T S A E F E L O P R E H D P H Z  
 V Z E P M B R L A T O A W V V W N O A U S B U T B  
 S E O H S E K W N H R N P F U Y G Q L H D I O G K  
 S C A H P L B N P K T I S U U Y D X H E N W L V L  
 P C Q Y S E W E C Z C O M P A S S I O N C P T R O  
 Z P J Z J C Q A D W O E X A V M X M M O Y Y Q U F  
 D A W L K V C F D S F T Y F M A L H V P Y C M M Z  
 F R N E V Q P K I Y O E F X Y H C M N U D F I Y K  
 K T T Z X C P U M I C D H V F C S V S N E R S Y T  
 R T A G Z R E M T F D S R Q K N S N H S W X P R R  
 U L V I S J L Q O P P X W Q N A D F A C K E I B E

ANGER  
 BROTHER  
 CELEBRATION  
 COMPASSION  
 FATHER  
 FEASTING  
 MONEY  
 PIGS  
 PRODIGAL  
 REPENTANCE  
 HOME  
 RING

ROBE  
 SERVANTS  
 SIN  
 SON  
 HUNGRY  
 FOUND  
 SHOES  
 STARVING  
 INHERITANCE  
 HAPPY  
 LOST  
 GOOD

GRACE  
 FORGIVENESS