



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

THE PRODIGAL SON

Health and Wellbeing topic: Forgiveness

These assembly scripts can work for one or two “hosts” – it is formatted so that you can either read the lines solo, or assign lines to two people... and feel free to reword the lines in ways that suit you. There are suggestions in blue dotted through the script of setting, tone and ways to film, but these are only suggestions – the most important things are that you are confident and relaxed as you film.

If you are having a hard time visualizing the script, please watch our video and read along to give you a clearer idea.



SCENE 1

(To begin your assembly, either tell a story about a time you had to forgive someone, or act out a scene with your co-host in which one of you “wrongs” the other and needs to be forgiven)

Have you ever been so mad at someone that you didn’t think you could be friends anymore? Maybe there’s someone in your class or your school right now who you’re not speaking to because of something that happened.

It's not a nice feeling when you fall out with someone. But apologising can be really hard. Do you have any good ideas of ways to apologise? Has anyone ever apologised to you in a special way?

(Pause for the children to reflect/write down ways to apologise)

Did anyone put sending an “I’m sorry” card or note? Or an “I’m sorry” present? Maybe you could promise to do someone’s chores for a week!

(If acting with a co-host, you can include a reconciliation scene here, or if telling a personal story, why not save the end of the story for here... how you reconciled the situation)

You know, this reminds me of a Bible story that’s all about forgiveness as well. It's not a story that actually happened though, it's a story that Jesus tells. A parable.

A parable, what is that?

(Include a definition or explanation of “parable” We have included a short clip here where a professor character gives the definition)

A parable is a story with a deeper meaning. So these are just characters Jesus made up to help us understand something bigger about what God is like. The story is about two brothers and their dad....



SCENE 2

Bible Story: The Prodigal Son / Luke 15 – *tell the Bible story in a creative way: with a children's storybook bible, using pictures or graphics, drawing the story with a voiceover, acting it out, using puppets. You could read directly from Luke, or retell the parable in your own words. Whatever you do, make it dynamic, and try to tell the story in under five minutes. Feel free to cut and use our storytelling clip if you like it.*



SCENE 3

So before I said that Jesus told this parable to help us understand what God is like? So this story isn't just about a nice father and his two sons.

There's definitely a deeper meaning. So if this story is actually about what God is like, which character do you think represents God in the parable? ***(You can ask this to your co-host, or to the children)***

... the Father! He must represent God.

Here's a challenge – if the Father in the story represents God, can you quickly think of five words to describe the Father in the story?

(Pause for the children to think of five words, then continue by giving your own five words. We used: loving, generous, patient, forgiving, welcoming)

And if that's what the Father in the story is like, Jesus was saying that is what God is like. But what about the other characters? Who would the prodigal, runaway son be like?

Well, honestly... he sounded a bit like me. It reminded me of how I need to ask for forgiveness

But I can also be like the older brother, because sometimes I don't want to forgive, I'd rather sulk!

And that's the amazing thing about the Father isn't it - He runs out to the son, ready right away to forgive him!

And if that's what the Father in the story is like, well that's what God is like... always ready to forgive us and welcome us.



SCENE 4

The truth is, we can all be like the younger son. We all need to say sorry and ask for forgiveness from time to time.

And we can all be like the older son – we all need to be willing to forgive others.

That can be our challenge this week: let's all think of one person we need to say sorry to, and one person we need to forgive.

But don't just think about it! Actually go and do it! Actually say sorry, and actually say “you're forgiven” to those people, because that's what God would want us to do, right? Because He's a God who's always ready to welcome us back.

