

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



Journaling lines for the question 'WHEN IS IT HARD TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?'



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

Watch this week's episode of The So & So Show by going to: <https://bit.ly/PreteenSundaysatHome>

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

- 1. You liked:
2. You learned:
3. You'd like to know:

Day 2

Read Luke 15:11-32

In verse 18, the son admits to the father what he did. Look at the verses above and underline everything the son did that was wrong, starting with asking for his inheritance while his father was still alive!

Now, circle everything the father says and does to celebrate his prodigal son's return.

It must have been really, really hard for the son to return home, admit all that he had done wrong, and ask for forgiveness. He must have been surprised when not only does his father forgive him but also restores him to his place as his son and throws a big party to celebrate!

Day 3

Go back and re-read Luke 15:18-19 and 21.

The prodigal son's request for forgiveness was pretty intense. Not only did he apologize for what he had done wrong, but he also offered to come back home as a servant instead of a son. But there was no need for that, because as soon as the father saw the son on the road, returning home, the father began running toward him, ready to forgive.

What do you need to ask God for forgiveness for? If there is something weighing heavy on your heart or mind, personalize the prayer below and ask God for forgiveness.

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"Dear God, I am sorry that I

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I know I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but you give it to me anyway. Thank You for sending Jesus so that I can be restored as Your child, just as the prodigal son was accepted back into his family. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen."

## Day 4

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### The father in this week's story not only forgave his son, but he also threw him a big party!

Find a friend and celebrate that God will always forgive you.

Meet up for ice cream, invite a friend over, or come up with an idea of your own—that will allow you to celebrate God's forgiveness. (Of course, remember to get a parent's permission.)

While you're hanging out enjoying the "party," talk with each other about forgiveness using these questions. Start by asking your friend if they're familiar with the story of the prodigal son, and if they're not, give them a quick overview.

- Which brother can you relate to more?
- Do you think one brother needed forgiveness more? If so, which one, and why?
- How does it make you feel to know you can be forgiven?
- When do you find it hard to ask forgiveness?
- How do you feel after you've asked for forgiveness?

## Day 5

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### When is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

Grab a backpack or other bag and empty it.

Think about a time when you've needed to apologize, but what you had done wasn't that big of a deal. Pick up something small and light to represent that and place it in the bag. Put the bag on your back and walk around.

Now imagine asking someone to carry that bag for you. It wouldn't seem like that big of a deal, right? It's not super heavy, so it doesn't feel like you're asking for a lot, which hopefully makes it at least a little easier to ask for forgiveness.

Now imagine something really hard to ask forgiveness for—maybe the worst thing you could imagine doing. Find something really heavy and place it in the bag. As you walk around, think of how it would feel to ask someone to take that bag from you? It might feel like you're imposing. But it also would be a huge relief to take a break.

Sometimes it will be hard to ask God for forgiveness—but remember, God will forgive you. God will take your load off and make you wonder why you ever tried to carry it yourself!

