**Year of Mercy**

***Activities***

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| **Month/Theme** | |
| **Activity Title Forgiveness/ Bearing wrongs patiently** | |
| **Age Group: Grades 3-5** | |
| **Description Summary:**  *(A sentence that captures the essence of this program and its goal.)* | God forgives us we should forgive others. |
| **Get Ready:**   * **Prep Time Required (in advance and day of)** * **Volunteers Necessary (How many? Their tasks?)** * **Reserve a space (what kind of facilities are required? What kind of set up needs to happen?)** * **Supplies Needed** | Gather supplies  No volunteers needed  Classroom or kitchen at home  3 glass containers: one labeled” You” about half full of water, one labeled “Sin” about half full of dark colored water, and one labeled “ God” half full of bleach. YouTube video The Lego Prodigal Son, paper and crayons or markers for each child. |
| **Make It Happen (Instructions):**  *(Detailed description of program and how to facilitate/create. Be sure to include examples of language/what to say or discussion questions, where applicable.* | Ask if it is easy to forgive people that have done something mean or hurtful to you. What did Jesus as us to do? Let’s watch this video and see what it tells us about forgiveness. Watch the video and explain the parable.  The younger son was being disrespectful to his father when he asked for his share of the father’s inheritance before the father died. He took the money his father had worked so hard for and spent it on things he didn’t need and careless living. When his money was gone and he had no place to go and no food to eat. He decided to go home to his father. The son was not sure his dad would be happy to see him. His father had been waiting and hoping his son would return. When the father saw his son the father ran to the son and hugged him. The son asked the father to forgive him for sinning against him and God. The father forgave his son and they had a huge celebration. Just like the father in the story God forgives us and is ready to take us back to Him when we are sorry for our sins.  Line the 3 glass jars and their contents up so all can see. We all sin (pour some of the colored water in the jar labeled you), you may mention a few as you pour like lie to your parents, look at someone else’s paper during a test, hit your brother or sister. God forgives us from our sins if we are sorry for those sins (pour the bleach from the jar labeled God). The colored water should return to clear. You can then pour the bleach in the jar labeled sin and explain that God can and will forgive every sin. |
| **Ideas:**  *(If there are any creative options that can be added to this program, e.g., watching a related movie/video, adding a field trip or service component, etc., explain one-two of those here.)* | 1.Role play-What Does Forgiveness Look Like. Read scenarios like, “your friend accidently broke your favorite toy”. “Your brother takes something of yours without asking.” Let the children act these out.  2. Write “forgiveness” in the center of a piece of paper. Draw circles all around the word. Draw 70 or 490, this is how many times we should forgive others, Matthew 18:22. |
| **Promote:**  *(A few quick ideas for marketing this program to young adults involved with your parish and those who are outside your parish)* | Flyers, bulletin announcements, text blasts, and Facebook page. |
| **Recommends:**  *(This is where any helpful handouts, service outlines, sample prayers, etc., can go)* |  |

**Extras:**

*We want to communicate some of the following to users, so fill-in the blank:*

1. *Cost of program: The cost of advertising, or, if you are willing, a round of drinks (can be NA)*
2. *Size of group this program is for (give us a number range): 6-30*

The size of the group is not an issue it can be 1-100 as long as paper is available for all participants and they can easily see the video.