

Take-home sheet for Unit 3 – Session one:

receiving God's boundless forgiveness

We want you to find ways to share the boundlessness of God with your friends, family and congregation. What happened here today should be shared, and we hope that the lesson doesn't end here, that it continues in conversations on the car ride home, with families around the dinner table, at school tomorrow... that this multiplies and becomes boundless!

With the parable of the Prodigal Son we explored our sinful nature and the grace of God's boundless forgiveness, which is available to all of us. In a world of broken relationships, the parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us a lesson of deep love, hope and, yes, forgiveness.

Share what you remember. Try to retell our story from today, Luke 15:12-32, or look it up in your Bible app (we were using the CEV: Common English Version).

Other Scriptures to explore:

- Ephesians 4:31-32: Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. 32 Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17: Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

Wondering questions

(discuss these questions with someone at home):

- How did this passage help you understand God's boundless forgiveness?
- Is there more than one way to express forgiveness?
- Who do you need to forgive right now?
- From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

congregation connection

Pay close attention in worship to what you feel during the confession and forgiveness. What words stand out to you?

If your congregation doesn't have confession during this season, where in the liturgy do you hear words of forgiveness? During the peace, encounter each person as a beloved, forgiven child of God. Greet someone that you usually don't. Talk to your family about how that felt.



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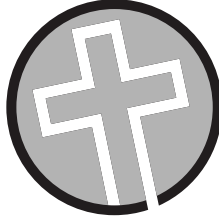


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Prayer:

God of boundless forgiveness, you know our hearts, hear our prayers and care about all that concerns us. You understand the burden we carry and how we want, more than anything, to know your forgiving love. Help us to remember that you always forgive and that you desire to extend that boundless forgiveness to us and through us. Help us to forgive as you do. Amen.



The story of the Prodigal Son that we spent time with in this session paints a picture of the long road that the younger son walked to come back home to find forgiveness and reconciliation. Find the longest road or path you can fit into a picture to post on social media. Make sure to use the hashtags **#ELCAYG2022** and **#boundlessforgiveness**.



Dismissal/blessing — Call and response:

- God's love is (place hand over heart) boundless.
- God's creation is (open arms wide) boundless.
- God's forgiveness is (cross wrists) boundless.
- God's invitation is (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched) boundless.
- God's promise is (make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or hand) boundless.



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Take-home sheet for Unit 3 – Session two: **living God's boundless forgiveness**

We want you to find ways to share the boundlessness of God with your friends, family and congregation. What happened here today should be shared, and we hope that the lesson doesn't end here, that it continues in conversations on the car ride home, with families around the dinner table, at school tomorrow... that this multiplies and becomes boundless!

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." (from "Loving Your Enemies" Martin Luther King Jr., A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration from the Great Sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Share what you remember. Try to retell our story from today, Genesis 50:15-21, or look it up in your Bible app (we were using the CEV: Common English Version). Here is some additional Scripture to help support these themes:

- Luke 17:3-4: So be careful what you do. Correct any followers of mine who sin, and forgive the ones who say they are sorry. 4Even if one of them mistreats you seven times in one day and says, "I am sorry," you should still forgive that person.
- 1 John 1:9: But if we confess our sins to God, [God] can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

Wondering questions

(discuss these questions with someone at home):

- How did this passage help you understand God's boundless forgiveness?
- What happens when we hold onto our hurt and pain?
- How have you overcome hurt or negative feelings in your past? How long did it take?
- What advice would you give someone who is hurting?

congregation connection

Let your congregation know that your group is learning about God's boundless forgiveness.

Reach out to members of your church and invite them to share a personal story of forgiveness. Find a few willing people and invite them to attend your next youth meeting. Ask the members to share from the heart their personal stories of forgiveness. You may also ask them the wondering questions above. Ask any follow-up questions as well. Be sure to thank the people for sharing their stories.

With their consent, take a picture with the person who shared their story of forgiveness with you and post it to social media. Make sure to use the hashtags **#ELCAYG2022** and **#boundlessforgiveness**.



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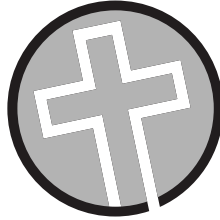


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Prayer

Merciful Lord, thank you for your gift of forgiveness. Your only Son loved us enough to come to earth and experience the worst pain imaginable so we could be forgiven. Your mercy flows to us in spite of our faults and failure. Teach us to let that blessing of boundless forgiveness continue to flow through us and out into the world. Help us demonstrate your boundless forgiveness. Amen.



Dismissal/blessing — call and response:

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- God's creation is (open arms wide) boundless.
- God's forgiveness is (cross wrists) boundless.
- God's invitation is (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched) boundless.
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