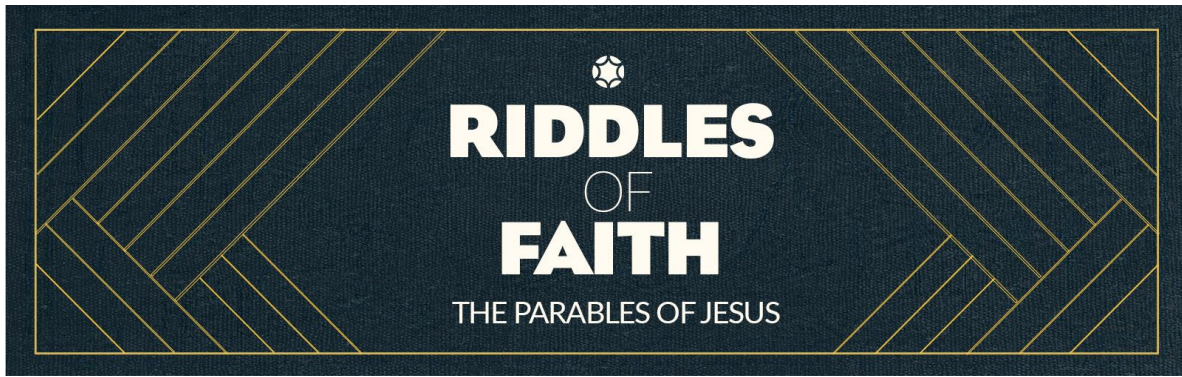




Riddles at Home

Family Companion Guide

Week Four // Boomerangs and Blessings

Start with a Riddle

What goes up and down but never moves?

[Answer: A staircase.]

Big Idea

God has shown us incredible mercy and forgiveness. Jesus teaches us that the mercy we receive from God should change the way we respond when other people hurt or wrong us.

Read Together

Read Matthew 18:21–35. Jesus tells a story about a servant who owed a king more money than he could ever repay. The king showed him mercy and completely canceled his debt. But when that same servant found someone who owed him much less, he refused to show the same mercy. Jesus told this story to remind us that because God has forgiven us, we should be willing to forgive others.

Talk About It

- What did the servant ask the king to do?
- What did the servant do when someone owed him money?
- Why can forgiving someone sometimes be difficult?

Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending that something didn't hurt or that what someone did was okay. It means remembering God's mercy toward us and asking him to help us show mercy to others.

Try It Together

Have everyone think of a time when someone forgave them, and complete this sentence:

I am thankful I was forgiven when _____.

Remember This

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

Pray Together

God, thank you for loving us and forgiving us when we do wrong. When someone hurts us, help us to let go of anger and choose forgiveness. Help our family be quick to say, "I'm sorry" and quick to forgive. Amen.

Keep It Going

Choose an activity to enjoy together:

- Pass it on: Do something unexpectedly kind for someone who has been kind to you and then choose someone else who hasn't done anything for you and bless them too.
- Make a forgiveness chain: Cut strips of paper and write words like mercy, grace, patience, kindness, and forgiveness on them. Link them together and hang the chain somewhere your family will see it.
- Balloon Release: Blow up balloons, but don't tie them. On the count of three, let them go and watch them fly around the room. Talk about how forgiveness can involve letting go of something we've been holding onto.
- Paper Airplane Do-Over: Everyone makes a paper airplane and gets several attempts to improve it. Celebrate the fact that the first attempt doesn't have to be the last.