



visitation rooms and the toys that the children play with while they are there.

Please join us and be a part of this blessing we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

#### Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

**1 Youth** is continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

We then looked at the older brother and saw that he was very bitter about his father throwing a huge party for his brother who didn't deserve any such thing. He felt so bitter that he wouldn't even go in and join the party. He was hurt that after working so hard for his father for so many years, it was his younger brother who was being celebrated.

His father tried to explain to him that both of the brothers always had everything he had to give and were always with him. He said that they had to celebrate that his brother was lost and had come back.

We said there was a huge party in Heaven for even one sinner who comes to the saving Grace of God and the older brother was letting his bitterness keep him from joining the party.

We talked about how this can happen today and when sometimes people who have been going to Church for many years, tithing and volunteering, see someone who just walks in (the younger brother), receives Jesus, and is celebrated and is given the same blessings as those who have worked for years (the older brother).

#### **Carrying Guilt and Bitterness not only makes it hard for us to move forward, it keeps us from joining the party.**

We then talked about the hard part of forgiving others for whatever they may have done and forgiving ourselves for whatever we may have done.

We said that the only way to be truly free from the Guilt and Bitterness holding us back is to give it to God and let it go to not allow those feelings to control our thoughts and actions and begin the healing process.

We finished by having the students anomalously write down anything that they may be having trouble forgiving themselves for or trouble forgiving others for. We then prayed for God to help us to forgive as He has forgiven us and to show us how let go of any feelings of Guilt and Bitterness. We then shredded all the cards, letting those feelings go forever.

We said that the enemy will try to still remind us of those feelings and lead us to believe that we can't just let them go, constantly trying to remind us of what was done to us or of what we did but we don't have to listen to him because we know that God has forgiven us and has freed us from the feelings of Guilt and Bitterness forever.

# Upcoming Youth Event

**Back to school overnight lock-in!!!**

Fun, Food, and Fellowship all night long. Tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 16th. Watch for confirmation and for details.

**Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Luke 15:11-32, Ephesians 4:31-32**

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry