

# Passing on the Prize

SBR 2020

Colossians 3:13 NIV

*Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone.  
Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. .*

When my daughter was young, maybe seven, we went to a carnival as a family. Games with balloons, basketballs or targets were everywhere. Each game included a prize, and if you won the game several times or a certain way, you got a larger stuffed animal as a prize. Now for some reason, my daughter was a sure winner at whack-a-mole. I don't know if she was the perfect height, has incredible reflexes, or just happened to be in the right place at the right time, but she was the winner each time she played. She beat her dad, her brother, and anyone else who tried to outdo her. After several games, my daughter got the stuffed dinosaur she was hoping to win; she got her prize. As we started to walk away, she noticed a younger boy crying. His family was also leaving the game and he had not won a thing. She stopped in her tracks, went to the boy, and handed him her dinosaur. She passed on her prize. This is a true story, and as her mother it would be nice to take credit for her actions, but this had nothing to do with me. My daughter is filled with more empathy for others than anyone I know. The young boy needed the prize; she gave him hers.

During this time of uncertainty, people can get upset. Having to stay home and live in close quarters can bring frustration and short tempers. Being stuck home alone can bring anger toward those who are busy taking care of their own needs and not yours. Being stuck at home and watching the news and hearing of hoarding can make one cranky. When we are uncertain, frustrated, short tempered, and cranky, we say unkind things to one another. All kinds of emotions can arise and bring out thoughts and comments that need forgiveness.

Reread the Bible verse for today. We are asked to put up with each other. (I gotta admit, that cracked me up! Put up with each other! Right?!) We are also asked to forgive each other, just as God the Father forgives us. God gave us the prize of forgiveness. He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from death to save us from our sins. This FREE gift of forgiveness is for you and for me.

I know sometimes it is really hard to forgive others, especially if they have hurt you or hurt your feelings. But during this troubled time, help God turn troubles into goodness. Forgive others and feel the weight lifted off your shoulders.

Keep in mind, I didn't say welcome trouble or turmoil or toxic relationships. It is Ok to walk away from things that hurt your soul. In fact, I encourage it! My suggestion is you forgive others to ease your heart. Take the prize of forgiveness and pass it on. Sooth your heart and soul and mind; be kind.

**Song: I Believe in Jesus** by Marc Nelson [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_d5HbddjrTU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_d5HbddjrTU)

*I believe He's here now, standing in our midst, with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.*

**Song: Kindness** by Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SidOp4dmj6k>

*Open up the skies of mercy, rain down the cleansing flood. Healing waters rise around us, hear our cries, Lord, let them rise.*

# DIY Carnival

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Grab what you've got and have an indoor (or backyard) carnival! Look for items such as: paper plates, clothes pins, a jar, toilet paper tubes, paper towel tubes, large paper or poster board, an old sheet or tarp, markers, duct tape, painter's tape, paint sticks or tall thin bottles, golf clubs or a broom, balloons, a fly swatter, empty boxes large and small, treats for prizes (candy, stickers, etc.)... use your imagination!

Here a few ideas-

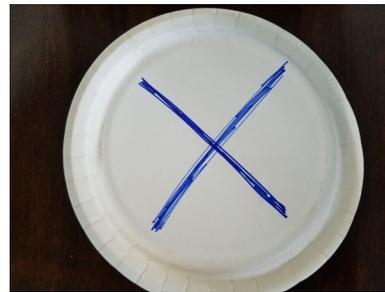
## Ring Toss:

Cut center out of paper plates and decorate. Find something that will work as a target (paper towel tube taped to the table, tall thin bottle, a candle). The winner is the one who gets the most plates around the target.



## Tic-Tac-Toe:

Use painter's tape or masking tape to build a game grid on the floor or use chalk on the sidewalk to do the same. Put Xs and Os on paper plates for game pieces.



**Balloon Tennis:** Use duct tape to attach a paper plate to a large spoon or paint stick. Give one to each player. Use a balloon to play a make-your-own-rules tennis game.



**Bucket Basketball:** Use several buckets or clean garbage cans and label each one a different value: 1 point, 5 points, 10 points, etc. Use bean bags or crumbled up pieces of paper or frisbees to try to make it into the basket. Most points win!



**Mini-Golf:** Use boxes or large plastic cups and set up a mini-golf course. Use golf clubs, a broom, a hockey stick or a fly swatter to push golf ball or other small ball (or crumbled paper) through the course.

**Target Practice:** Cut holes in an old sheet or tarp. Hang up (not against a wall). Have target practice with paper airplanes, crumbled paper, or balled up socks.

**Photo Booth:** Set up an area for photo fun. Use old sheet or tarp as background. Make some fun props and attach to straws or spoons.

**Clothes Pin Drop:** Stand directly over a jar. Hold clothespin at your nose. Let go. Most landings in jar wins!