WEEK OF
March 26, 2023

Work in Progress: Redo, Rewrite, Restore

PARENT GUIDE
Elementary

Use this guide to help your family learn why forgiveness is important.

First, watch this week's video!

Forgiveness: Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

Memory Verse

"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIrV

Bible Story

The Story of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11–32

Bottom Line

God will always forgive you.

Activity

Always, Sometimes, Never

What You Need:

Three pieces of paper and a writing utensil

What You Do:

Write down the words, "Always," "Sometimes," and "Never" on the three sheets of paper—one word per page. Place the sheets of paper in a line on the floor. Point out the words on the floor to make sure your child knows what each one says.

Explain that you'll call out something your child does, and they should jump to the category that correctly describes how often they do that thing.

How often do you:

- brush your teeth?
- put on clothes?
- choose to be patient with your brother or sister? (adjust as needed for your family)
- eat your vegetables?
- lick the floor? (hopefully NEVER!)
- have a snack?
- go to bed without complaint?
- remember to say "thank you"?
- finish your homework?
- share?
- eat dessert?

When you're finished, say, "There are things we do sometimes, things we do never, and things we do always. But what is something from our Bible story today that God always does?" (forgive)

Talk About the Bible Story

In the story Jesus told, what did the father do for the son who came home? *(The father forgave the son.)*

Are there some people in your life who are easier to forgive than others?

When is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

Why does God always forgive us?

Parent: Give a kid-friendly example about a time when you chose to stay mad and refused to forgive. Maybe you were a kid and just wanted to stay mad. How does God's forgiveness encourage you to forgive others?

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for loving us, always. When there are times we mess up and do something wrong, help us make it right by saying we're sorry AND asking for forgiveness. Thank You for the way You always forgive us. Help us forgive others, too. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

WEEK OF
March 26, 2023

Work in Progress: Redo, Rewrite, Restore

PARENT GUIDE
Preteen



First, watch this week's video!

Use this guide to help your family learn why forgiveness is important.

Forgiveness: Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

Memory Verse

"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIrV

Bible Story

The Story of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

Key Question

When is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

Activity

Three Wishes

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Invite your child to do an activity with you.

Say, "If you could wish for any three things right now, what would you wish for—and why? The only thing you can't wish for is more wishes."

Allow your child to respond. If time allows, answer the same question for yourself!

Talk About the Bible Story

In the story Jesus told, there was a father who only had one wish. Do you remember what it was? *(For his son to return home)*

Are there some people in your life who are easier to forgive than others?

When is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

Why does God always forgive us?

How does it make you feel to know that God will always forgive you?

Parent: Give a kid-friendly example about a time when you chose to stay mad and refused to forgive. Maybe you were a kid and just wanted to stay mad. How does God's forgiveness encourage you to forgive others?



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for loving us, always. When there are times we mess up and do something wrong, help us make it right by saying we're sorry AND asking for forgiveness. Thank You for the way You always forgive us. Help us forgive others, too. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."