

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, NIV

Bible Story

The Story of the Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

Bottom Line

Forgive others because God forgives you.

Activity

Think Fast!

What You Need:

Smartphone or timer

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game with you. Say, "I'm going to set a timer for one minute. I'll ask you a bunch of questions super-fast. Answer them as quickly as you can!"

Set a timer for one minute, and start the timer as soon as you say the first question.

- How many seconds are there in one minute? (60)
- How many fingers are on one hand? (five)
- How many meals do you eat in one day? (three; this can vary depending on family styles)
- How many days are there in a week? (seven)
- How many toes are on BOTH feet? (10)
- How many letters are there in the alphabet? (26)
- How many worms can you eat before you get sick? (Any answer will work; have fun with this one!)

When you're finished, say, "That was some very quick thinking. Great job. Those 'how many' questions came SUPER-fast!"

In our Bible story today, Peter asked Jesus a 'how many' question, and it was REALLY important. Do you remember what it was? ("Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?") And how did Jesus respond? ("I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.") Basically, Jesus was saying that we should forgive as many times as it takes!"

Talk About the Bible Story

We know that God forgives us no matter what. How should that affect the way we choose to forgive others?

What keeps you from forgiving? When is it difficult to forgive?

When we know we need to forgive someone, but we don't feel like forgiving, what can we do?

Parent: Share about a time you chose to forgive someone when you did NOT feel like forgiving. What happened? Talk about how your understanding of God's forgiveness for you helped you choose to forgive, even when it was hard.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for choosing to love us, no matter what. We want to forgive others because YOU forgive us. Will You help us forgive because You've forgiven us? We need Your help for sure. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us Your forgiveness and love. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."



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Key Question

What keeps you from forgiving?

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Activity

Trash Pass

What You Need:

Paper and writing utensil

What You Do:

Sit down with your child and make a list of all the items you typically throw away. For example: empty milk cartons, soda cans, cereal boxes, etc. Create a list of eight to 10 items.

Then, together, think of at least one way you could reuse or repurpose each item.

When you're finished, say, "You are so creative! We should all be mindful with what we choose to throw away when it comes to taking care of our world. God created the earth for us to enjoy, so we should be responsible in how we care for it. In today's story, we heard about something else God has given us, and how that should affect the way we treat other people. Any guesses what that is?" (*forgiveness*)



Talk About the Bible Story

In our Bible story today, Peter asked Jesus a 'how many' question. Do you remember what it was? ("Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?")

How did Jesus respond? ("I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.")

We know that God forgives us no matter what. How should that affect the way we choose to forgive others?

What keeps you from forgiving? When is it difficult to forgive?

When there's someone you need to forgive, but you're not willing or ready to forgive them, how does that affect you?

Parent: Share about a time you chose to forgive someone when you did NOT feel like forgiving. What happened? Talk about how your understanding of God's forgiveness for you helped you choose to forgive, even when it was hard.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for choosing to love us, no matter what. Help us to choose to love others the same way. Help us to choose forgiveness again and again, even when we don't feel like it. We love You. Amen."