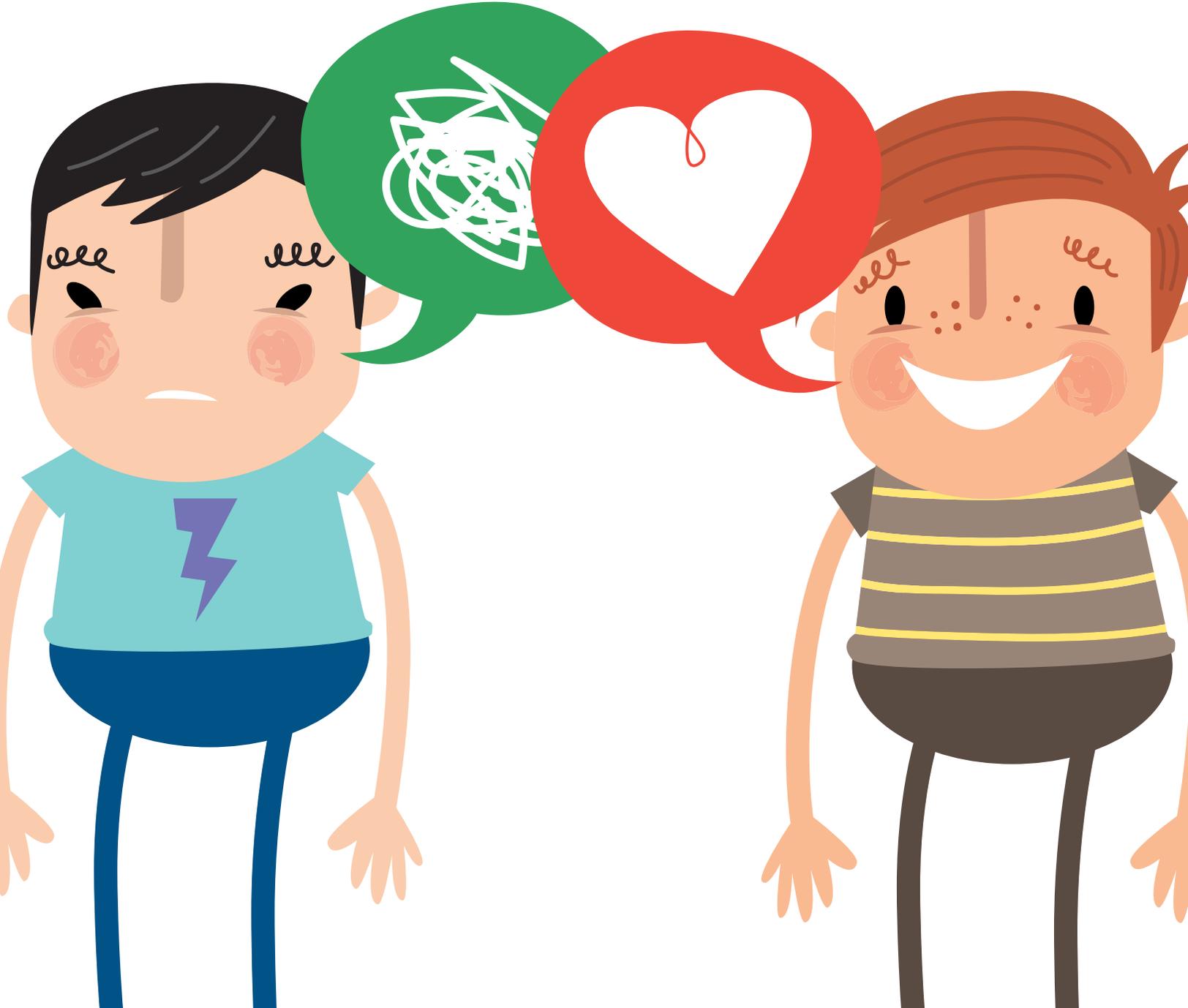


KIDS of  
INTEGRITY

Forgiveness



**Help your kids understand what their forgiveness cost Jesus, and why it's so important to forgive others. Includes 15 special readings focused on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.**

Select from a whole caboodle of ideas that encourage kids to be:

- willing to forgive
- gracious toward others
- quick to admit they were wrong, and to apologize.

In addition, this lesson helps address vengefulness, bitterness, resentment and persistent guilt.

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## Parents' prayer

Although we can try to develop character in our children through various methods and programs, only God can bring about permanent change in a child's heart. Before you begin leading your children through this study on forgiveness, spend time alone with God interceding for His help.

You can use the sample prayer below, or if you prefer to personalize your prayers, the additional verses under "Scripture-guided prayer" will help provide direction and inspiration.

### Sample prayer

Loving and gracious Father, in You we have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of Your grace that You lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding (Ephesians 1:7-8). Lord, You are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. You do not harbour Your anger forever and You do not treat us as our sins deserve. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is Your love for those who fear You; as far as the east is from the west, so far have You removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:8-12). The depth of Your unending mercy and love is overwhelming. Thank you, Jesus, for enduring great pain and sacrifice so that our sins can be forgiven. Your death was the ultimate expression of Your love for us.

Humanly, I lack the ability to love and offer grace as You do, but the promise of Your Spirit living in me gives me hope. I confess my hard-hearted tendency to harbour bitterness, anger and unforgiveness. I pray that out of Your glorious riches You would strengthen me with power through Your Spirit in my inner being.

Lord Jesus, in faith I ask that You would establish Your presence in my heart. I need to be filled completely with You in order to experience Your power in a way that allows me to understand how wide and long and high and deep Your love is. I want to practically experience the love of Christ – the love that is beyond human understanding – so that I may be filled completely with all the fullness of You (Ephesians 3:16-19). Thank you for the hope I have in You! Because You live in me, I can be a grace-filled,

loving person who forgives with generous mercy (1 John 4:12-13).

Lord, I bring \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ before You and I ask that You would give them a complete understanding of Your forgiveness. Help them to repent of their sins with a godly sorrow as opposed to a worldly sorrow. May Your Holy Spirit fill their hearts with a desire to be forgiven, not just for their salvation, but because they know how much their sin saddens You.

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_'s and \_\_\_\_\_'s spiritual growth will not be hindered by the faulty belief that they are undeserving of Your forgiveness or by the bitterness of unforgiveness. Instead I ask that You will enable them to embrace Your forgiveness and readily forgive others (1 John 2:10-11). Please send Your Holy Spirit to reveal any feelings of anger, rage, bitterness and resentment that they are unknowingly keeping in their hearts. I pray they will recognize these feelings as temptations from Satan to be unforgiving. At these times, may they turn to You and ask for Your Holy Spirit to enable them to forgive others as You have forgiven them (Matthew 6:14-15).

We have been the recipients of much undeserved grace and forgiveness. Empower us with Your mercy so that we willingly put up with each other and bear with one another in love, forgiving as You forgive us (Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 1:6-7, Isaiah 55:7). Please fill our home with Your gracious love so that we are tolerant instead of being easily angered and forgiving instead of keeping records of wrong (1 Corinthians 13:5).

Please pour into our hearts Your Spirit of wisdom and patience to inspire us to overlook the offenses of others (Proverbs 19:11, Galatians 5:22). In Jesus name, I pray that our family would walk in the freedom of the forgiveness Jesus established for us on the cross, so our relationships are all a reflection of Your grace. Amen.

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## **Scripture-guided prayer for parents**

*Pray through one or more of the selected Scriptures under each heading. Focus on listening to God and allowing His Spirit to direct you as you pray.*

### **Character focus**

Begin by letting God know how much you appreciate His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Psalm 86:5-7 | Psalm 103:1-5 | Micah 7:18-19 | Ephesians 1:3-8 | Colossians 1:13-14

### **Heart search**

Acknowledge when and how you are tempted to be unforgiving or hard-hearted.

Psalm 51:3-4,17 | Daniel 9:4-5,18-19 | Matthew 6:14-15 | Mark 11:24-25 | Ephesians 4:31 | 1 John 1:5-7,9-11

### **Gratitude**

Thank God for ways you have seen grace and forgiveness exhibited in your family.

### **Family requests**

Ask God to enable you and your family to offer others forgiveness readily.

Proverbs 19:11 | Matthew 18:21-22 | Ephesians 4:2-3,32 | Colossians 3:12-14 | 2 John 5-6

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## **Kids talk with God**

*Use this section to help your children learn to reach out to God in all things. The sample prayers all begin with "Dear God," however, you may use any other names for God your children are comfortable with (i.e. Jesus, Father God, Lord Jesus, Heavenly Father, Abba Father, Lord). If you prefer to help your children formulate original prayers, you'll find inspiration in the Bible verses listed in the "Scripture-guided prayer for children" section.*

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### **Sample prayers**

*Read Mark 11:25. Before you go to prayer, ask God to help you all do a "heart search," making sure that no one is holding grudges against anyone else.*

Dear God, I am having a hard time forgiving \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. Please give me Your love in my heart so I can forgive as You have forgiven me. Amen.

Dear God, I feel like hurting \_\_\_\_\_ rather than forgiving him/her. Please help me to remember that it is Your job to discipline others and not mine. Amen.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross so that we can have our sins forgiven. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Please help me to forgive others as You forgive us. Amen.

Dear God, I am sorry I did \_\_\_\_\_. Will You please forgive me? Amen.

Dear God, I am afraid to ask forgiveness from \_\_\_\_\_. Please give me the courage to do the right thing. Amen.

### **Scripture-guided prayer for children**

*Read through one of the selected Scriptures under each heading and help your children pray based on the verse you read. Encourage them to listen to God and allow His Spirit to guide them as they pray.*

#### **Character focus**

Begin by letting God know how much you appreciate His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Psalm 86:5 | Psalm 145:8 | Micah 7:18-19

#### **Heart search**

Acknowledge when and how you have difficulty forgiving others.

Matthew 6:14-15 | Ephesians 4:31 | 1 John 2:9

#### **Gratitude**

Thank God for ways you have seen forgiveness offered readily in your family.

#### **Personal requests**

Ask God to help you, your siblings and parents, to be willing to forgive others quickly, in all situations.

Ephesians 4:2-3 | Ephesians 4:32 | Colossians 3:12-14

## **Speak a blessing**

*Your affirmation will give tremendous encouragement to your children as they strive become more forgiving. Use this section as a guide and “speak a blessing” when you see this godly characteristic in your son or daughter.*

- Great job \_\_\_\_\_. You are forgiving as the Lord forgave you!
- Forgiving others can be hard \_\_\_\_\_, but God sure is happy when we forgive each other.
- I see that you are stopping those bitter roots from growing up in our family/your friendships \_\_\_\_\_.
- Good job putting up with what \_\_\_\_\_ just did to you \_\_\_\_\_. You are sharing God’s love.
- When we forgive others quickly, it makes life so much more pleasant.

## **Memory verses**

*Memorizing Scripture with your children helps God’s Spirit bring about lasting change. Choose a verse that your children can learn in a pre-determined period of time. Aim to review the verse at least once every day.*

Nehemiah 9:17 “. . . But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love . . .”

Psalm 86:5 “You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to You.”

Psalm 103:2-4 “Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.”

Psalm 145:8 “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.”

Micah 7:18 “Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance?”

Micah 7:19 “You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Mark 11:25 “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Luke 6:37 “. . . Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

Luke 11:4 “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.”

Luke 17:3 “So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.”

Luke 24:47 “. . . repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

Ephesians 4:31 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”

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

Colossians 1:13-14 “For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

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## Kick-off craft

Make this beautiful “stained glass” cross, then hang it in a prominent place to remind your family to practice forgiveness. You will need transparent packing tape and tissue paper in a variety of colours.

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### “Stained glass” cross

#### Directions

- 1 Cut two strips of packing tape. Lay one strip on a firm surface, sticky side up. Lay the second strip across the first strip to form the shape of a cross.
- 2 Have your children rip up small pieces of tissue paper and stick each fragment to the cross. When the sticky surface area is covered in tissue paper, use two more strips of packing tape to seal the tissue paper between the two layers of the packing tape.
- 3 Help your children cut off the tissue paper that extends beyond the edges of the tape, then hang the finished cross on a window. You may also wish to make a cross-shaped paper frame for your “stained glass” cross. As the light shines through the cross, it serves as a reminder that, despite our sin, we can be beautiful when God’s light shines through us.
- 4 Read Romans 12:17-19 aloud together: “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”
- 5 Pray with your children, asking that God would give them the strength to overcome evil with good instead of being overcome by evil (Romans 12:21). You may also have them select one of the prayers from the **kids talk with God** section.
- 6 Encourage your children to go and stand before your cross when they are angry or frustrated with a friend or family member. Have them touch the insides of their palms – the spot

where the nails would have pierced Jesus' hands. Pray with your children, thanking God for His forgiveness. If your children need to release frustration prior to praying, have them squeeze their hands into a fist, touching the inside of their palms with their "nails." Then have them open their hands, "releasing" their hurt and pain to God, acknowledging that it is His job to "repay."

### Other ideas

If you do not have the supplies required for a "stained glass" cross, help your children make a cross out of sticks or cardboard. Write your selected memory verse on a card and glue it on the cross.

## Bible stories

*This section provides Bible stories with the theme of forgiveness, along with questions you can use as a guide for family discussions. Choose one that is appropriate for your children. Before reading aloud, take a few minutes to review the story. If the Bible passage is too complex for your kids, paraphrase the story yourself or use the summary provided under "key concepts."*

### The parable of the lost sheep

Read Luke 15:3-7, John 3:16 and John 1:12.

#### Questions for discussion

1. How many sheep did the man in the story own?
2. How many were lost?
3. What did the man do about the lost sheep?
4. What did he do when he found it?
5. What does it mean to repent?
6. Who does God want to be in heaven?
7. Pretend you are a sheep. Is God out looking for you or has He already found you?

#### Key concepts

Jesus told a story about a man who had 100 sheep. One day, the man lost one of his sheep. Even though

he still had plenty of other sheep, the man would not stop searching until he had found the one that was lost.

Jesus told this story to help people understand how much celebration there is in heaven when one sinner repents. To repent means we let God know how deeply sorry we are for sinning. God loves the people He created so much that He offers eternal life to anyone who believes in His son, Jesus, and repents of their sins.

In the Bible it says, ". . . to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). God wants everyone to become part of His family and to spend eternity in heaven with Him (1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9). Anyone who does not believe that Jesus is God's son and has not asked God to forgive their sins is like a lost sheep. God keeps hoping that they will notice that He is looking for them (Acts 17:27-28).

*This may be an opportune time to share the message of salvation with your child.*

### Unforgiveness is unacceptable

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

#### Questions for discussion

1. What did the king do for the servant?
2. Was the servant thankful?
3. What did the servant do to his fellow servant?
4. What did the king do to the unforgiving servant?
5. Would you want God to put you in jail for not forgiving your brother, sister or friend?

#### Key concepts

There was a servant who owed a king a very large sum of money. He deserved to lose everything that he had to pay the debt, but the king had mercy on him and cancelled the debt.

But this same servant, who had had his debt forgiven, then went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him only a small amount of money. He

grabbed him and began to choke him, saying, “Pay back what you owe me.” He demanded that the man be thrown into jail until he could repay him.

When the king heard what had happened, he was angry. He had the first servant put into jail himself. The lesson to be learned is that we need to have mercy and forgive each other, as God is merciful in forgiving us. When we have unforgiveness in our hearts, we are like the unforgiving servant. God has forgiven all of our sins and we need to readily forgive others too.

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## **Forgiveness and a big number**

Read Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 6:12-15 and 1 John 4:19-21.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Can you name something a brother/sister/friend does that constantly bothers you?
2. How many times are we supposed to forgive someone?
3. Is it hard to forgive someone over and over again?
4. What can you do if you need help?

### **Key concepts**

The Bible tells us clearly that we are to forgive others many times, just as God does for us. The number we are given is 70 x 7. That is a pretty big number! The Bible also tells us we show others that we love God when we love our brothers. God’s love in us can help us love and forgive others.

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## **Condemnation is God’s job**

Read Romans 12:17-21 and 1 Corinthians 4:5.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. When God forgives us, does it mean He thinks that what we did was okay?
2. When we forgive others, are we saying that their actions were right?
3. Why does God want us to forgive others when they have not asked for forgiveness or changed their ways?

4. Do we deserve to be forgiven?
5. Should God forgive us?
6. Who does God forgive?
7. Who should we forgive?

### **Key concepts**

When we forgive someone, we are not saying that what they did was right. Rather, we are giving up our right to be angry about their wrong actions. We are leaving the problem and our hurt with God. God is the one who will judge what should happen to those who do wrong. Instead of paying back wrong for wrong, we should be kind (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

God has appointed certain people who are allowed to pass judgment in the form of discipline (Romans 13:1-6). Those people may be judges, police officers, government officials and parents of children. It is not up to children to discipline each other. God forgives everyone who asks Him and we need to forgive as well. The Bible says that if we do not forgive each other, then God will not forgive us.

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## **Hearts like stone**

Read Leviticus 19:17-18, Matthew 18:35 and Proverbs 4:20-23.

*As you read these verses aloud, ask your children to listen for the word “heart.” You may also choose to have a stone ready for each child to hold during your discussion.*

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What does a stone feel like?
2. How can our hearts be like stone?
3. Can a hard heart be willing to forgive?
4. Is it easy to forgive when someone has wronged you?
5. Why should you forgive?
6. Has anyone ever forgiven you?

7. How did it feel to be forgiven?
8. Who can help you to forgive?
9. When you dislike someone, you don't want to be near him or her. How can you begin to show love from your heart to someone you dislike?
10. Do you really dislike the person or do you dislike their actions?
11. How does forgiving help you and the other person who has wronged you?
8. What does it mean to "hold" your tongue?
9. Who gave Solomon wisdom?
10. What does following God's wisdom and advice give us?

### **Key concepts**

An offense is when someone does something that hurts our feelings or makes us angry or irritated with him or her. Many times, an offense is something small and should not be a reason to argue or fight with others. To overlook something means to not see or notice, or to ignore it. The Bible says that if we can overlook an offense it is to our glory. This means God will be pleased with us when we ignore the wrong that others do.

In the book of Proverbs, Solomon, a very wise king, gives some advice on overlooking offenses. To summarize, Solomon told people to speak gently, because speaking harshly stirs up anger. He said that wise people are patient and willing to overlook offences, but fools get annoyed easily.

Solomon also advised people to speak few words. He told people to "hold their tongues," because when we speak it is easier to sin. Solomon also pointed out that it is better to live in a home where people get along and you have very little to eat than to live somewhere where there is lots of food and people are fighting. God gave Solomon wisdom. When we follow the wise advice God gives us in the Bible, God promises to bless and guide our lives.

### **Turn hate into love**

Read Genesis 4:1-16, 1 John 3:11-15 and 1 John 4:19-21.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Can you forgive someone when you hate him or her?
2. Why did Cain hate his brother?
3. Did Cain have a right to be angry with his brother?
4. Why did God choose Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's?

### **Key concepts**

The opposite of love is hate. To hate someone means that we have an extremely strong feeling of dislike for him or her. We usually try to stay away from things or people we hate. A grudge is when we remember the wrong someone did to us and we are unfriendly towards that person. In Proverbs God tells us that we will be healthier if we guard our hearts from hate and holding grudges. If we do not forgive from our hearts, then God will not forgive us. God commands His people to love others as they love themselves (Galatians 5:14, James 2:8).

### **Overlook offense**

Read Proverbs 19:11, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 17:1, Proverbs 12:16, Proverbs 10:19 and Proverbs 8:32-35.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What is an offense?
2. What kinds of things do people do that offend you?
3. What does it mean to overlook something?
4. Is it easy to overlook an offense?
5. How can you overlook an offense when it is hard?
6. What wise advice did King Solomon give in the Proverbs about overlooking offenses?
7. Would you rather live in a peaceful home or in a home where there is fighting?

5. How do you change your hate and anger into love and forgiveness?

### **Key concepts**

Cain and Abel were brothers. One day, both brothers presented offerings to God. God accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's. This made Cain very angry, so angry that he killed his brother Abel because he was jealous that God favoured Abel's sacrifice over his own (1 John 3:12). After Cain killed Abel, God told Cain that he would be removed from His presence because of his sin.

We might also be tempted to allow our anger or hate to cause us to harm someone else. This does not please God. In order to remove the anger and hate from our hearts, we need to ask and allow God to put His love in our hearts. God wants us to love others as He loves us.

### **A son asks for forgiveness**

Read Luke 15:11-24.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. How did the son sin against his father?
2. How did the father know the son was sorry about what he did?
3. Was the son expecting to be forgiven?
4. Who did the son apologize to for his selfish behaviour?

### **Key concepts**

In this story that Jesus told, a son asked for the money that his father had put aside for him as his inheritance. The son then left home and spent all of the money having fun. When he had no money left he found a job feeding pigs. It was an awful job and the son became so hungry he wanted to eat the pigs' food. The son realized how unhappy he was and thought that if he could get work as a servant for his father, taking care of his animals, life would be better.

The son realized that he had sinned against God and against his father. He returned home and asked for forgiveness. The father was overjoyed when his son came home and understood how sorry his son was

for what he had done. The father forgave his son graciously and welcomed him back into the family. This is how God forgives us when we say we are sorry for our sins. He welcomes us into His family.

### **Hidden secrets**

Read Hebrews 4:13, Psalm 32:3-5, Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10.

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Have you ever felt tired or "heavy" because you did something wrong but didn't want to tell anyone about it?
2. Have you ever had to keep a secret about a surprise present or birthday party? If so, when? Was it hard to keep this secret from others?
3. How much work is it to keep a secret from someone?
4. Does it make sense to keep something secret from God?
5. Is God willing to forgive us when we sin?
6. Why might someone not be willing to ask for forgiveness?

### **Key concepts**

God knows about everything we do, even if it is done in secret. Keeping our wrongdoing secret and being unwilling to ask for forgiveness from God or others can cause us to feel weighed down inside, as if we are carrying a heavy load. God is ready and willing to forgive us when we come to Him and say we are sorry. He says that we will not experience blessing if we do not say we are sorry for the wrong things that we do.

This story fits well with the **hands-on option** entitled "heavy luggage."

## **The story of Jesus and forgiveness**

The following interactive story will help you explain to your child what Christ accomplished through His death on the cross. Although the selected Scriptures are often associated with Easter, the story of God's forgiveness is appropriate at any time of the year.

Fifteen different readings, with questions for discussion, are available below. Choose only twelve readings in total, working through one or two readings each day.

To help engage your children, purchase twelve plastic eggs with hollow centers. Put a Bible verse and a symbolic item appropriate to each reading inside each "resurrection egg" – or simply put the items and verses in an empty egg carton. Commercial "resurrection eggs" are also available at Christian bookstores or online.

When you have completed your readings, be sure to ask your child if they want to have Jesus as their best friend and have Him forgive their sins and become the leader of their lives. If they do make this choice, take the time to help them personalize a prayer, requesting forgiveness and God's lordship in their lives. After they have prayed, assure them of God's love, forgiveness and leadership.

### **WELCOME KING JESUS!**

Read Matthew 21:1-11, John 12:12-19 and Matthew 26:3-5.

**Symbol:** palm branches (Take long feathery leaves from a house plant or garden plant and press them in a book until they are dry, or cut palm branches from construction paper.)

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What do we do in our country to show great honour to people?
2. Why do you think the people were honouring Jesus?
3. Do you get upset when you see someone getting the attention that you would rather have?
4. Who was upset by all the attention Jesus was getting?

### **Key concepts**

Jesus was hailed as king as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people spread their cloaks on the ground and cut palm branches and laid them on the road. This was a tradition that was reserved for very important people or royalty. This made the religious leaders jealous enough that they made plans to kill Jesus.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Zechariah 9:9.

### **A VERY SPECIAL MEAL**

Read Mark 14:12-26 and Luke 22:7-23.

**Symbol:** a piece of bread or dry cereal

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What do we do to celebrate special occasions?
2. What occasion was Jesus celebrating with His disciples?

### **Key concepts**

On birthdays and holidays we often gather together with friends and relatives and eat food. Before Jesus was arrested, He had a special meal with His disciples to celebrate the Passover.

While they were eating, Jesus showed his disciples some bread and wine and said that the bread should remind them of His body and the wine should remind them of His blood. This was because Jesus was going to sacrifice His body through dying on the cross. Because Jesus died for us, God said that our sins would be forgiven if we believe in Jesus.

### **THE BEAUTIFUL GIFT**

Read John 12:1-8.

**Symbol:** a tiny sample bottle of perfume or olive oil

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What do we do at our home to make people feel special?
2. What did Mary do to make Jesus feel special?
3. Who got upset by this?

4. Why did Jesus say she had anointed Him?
5. What do you think Jesus' special task was?
6. Do your parents ever give you a job that you would prefer not to do?
7. Do you do it anyway?
8. Do you think Jesus wanted to die?

### **Key concepts**

At a dinner party, a woman came and poured very expensive perfume on Jesus' head. She did this to honour Jesus, but Judas complained that she had wasted it as it could have been sold and the money given to the poor.

Jesus corrected those who objected to her actions, because He said it was a beautiful thing she had done. He also said that it was to prepare His body for burial. During Jesus' time on earth, the custom was to put spices, perfume and oil on a person's dead body before putting it in a tomb or grave.

Oil was also used as a part of a special custom called "anointing." A small amount of oil was poured on someone's head to show that he had been chosen to do a special task. Usually only kings, prophets or priests were anointed. Christ means "anointed one."

Jesus had been sent by God, His Father, to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus knew that He was going to be nailed to the cross and die so that our sins could be forgiven. He knew this was the special task God had given Him. He had the power to avoid this cruel death, but chose to go through it all so we could have forgiveness for our sins.

### **BETRAYED BY A FRIEND**

Read Matthew 26:14-16.

**Symbol:** dimes or silver coins

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Have you ever has a friend do something unkind to you or say they didn't want to be your friend anymore?

2. How did you feel?
3. How do you think Jesus felt when one of His best friends decided to become an enemy instead?

### **Key concepts**

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" They gave him 30 silver coins. Judas valued money more than he valued his friend Jesus. Jesus had been very good to Judas, but Judas was not good to Jesus. Judas was not a faithful friend.

The leaders and priests were jealous of Jesus because the people were honouring Jesus as they would honour a king. Jesus claimed to be king, but not the king of Israel – rather the king of our hearts. The leaders and priests did not understand this. They were afraid that if everyone followed Jesus, they would lose their jobs as religious leaders. So they devised a plan to kill Jesus. They accused Jesus of doing many wrong things, including claiming He was God. Jesus did not defend Himself. This made them angrier and even more determined to kill Him.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Zechariah 11:12.

### **DESERTED BY A FRIEND**

Read Mark 14:27-31 and 66-72.

**Symbol:** rooster feather or plastic rooster

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Are you a friend of Jesus?
2. Was Peter Jesus' friend?
3. Why did Peter deny Christ?
4. What are some ways we can "deny" Christ?

### **Key concepts**

Peter was a strong and confident man. Jesus even changed his name from Simon to Peter and the name Peter means "rock." But when Jesus was arrested and things got scary, even Peter pretended he didn't know Jesus because he was afraid of what the people

might do to him if he admitted he was one of Jesus' friends. On three different occasions people asked Peter if he was a friend of Jesus, and each time he said that he didn't know Jesus at all.

After Peter had "denied" Christ three times, a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered that he had told Jesus that he would never deny Him. Peter was very disappointed in himself and he cried.

It is easy for us to say Peter was a "chicken" or a "scaredy-cat," but we need to be careful we don't deny our friendship with Jesus like Peter did. We can "deny" Jesus by choosing not to tell people we go to church and believe in Jesus.

### **TEASED AND TORMENTED**

Read Mark 14:53-65 and 15:16-20.

**Symbol:** purple cloth and/or a crown of thorns (made from a branch from a rose bush)

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What do people do to hurt your feelings?
2. How do you feel when people make fun of your name?
3. How do think Jesus felt when the people mocked Him?
4. How would you feel with a crown like this on your head?

### **Key concepts**

The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus and a crown of thorns on His head. They mocked Him and teased Him, saying that He was the king of the Jews. They also beat Him on the head with a stick over and over again.

Many people said things about Jesus that weren't true. Jesus did not even try to defend Himself. But when He was asked if He was Christ, the Son of God, He did reply, saying, "Yes, it is as you say." People also spit in His face and slapped Him.

There are two kinds of pain. One is physical pain, like when you hurt yourself by falling down. The other

kind of pain is emotional pain: when your feelings or your heart is hurt by the unkindness of others. Jesus had both kinds of pain.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Isaiah 53:4-7.

### **SENTENCED TO DEATH ON A CROSS**

Read John 19:17-27.

**Symbol:** a small cross (made out of two twigs or matchsticks tied together with fine thread)

### **Questions for discussion**

1. How are criminals punished today?
2. How were criminals punished during Jesus' time on earth?

### **Key concepts**

Today, criminals are put in prison. The worst criminals are put in "solitary confinement," meaning they are put in prison alone. In Jesus' time, Romans often killed criminals by nailing them onto a cross to die. They would do this as a warning to others who might also be doing wrong. The criminals would often be beaten and forced to carry their own cross to the place where they would be crucified. Death on the cross was used for the worst criminals. It is a very painful way to die.

### **PUNISHED IN OUR PLACE**

Read John 19:16 and 20:24-31.

**Symbol:** nails

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Would you ever offer to take someone else's spanking or punishment?
2. What is the worst punishment that you can think of?
3. How do you think it would feel to have nails driven through your hands and feet?

### **Key concepts**

Jesus loved us so much that He went through this punishment so we wouldn't have to be punished for our sins. When Jesus went through the pain of being

crucified on the cross, He was taking the punishment we deserve for our sins. We all deserve to be punished for our sins, but Jesus took the punishment for us.

### **SHARING THE SPOILS**

Read Luke 23:34 and John 19:23-24.

**Symbol:** dice

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What do you use dice for?
2. What did the soldiers use the dice for?

### **Key concepts**

The soldiers divided up Jesus' clothes among themselves, but because one of the pieces of clothing was a seamless undergarment, they decided to play a game to see who got to keep it.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Psalm 22:18.

### **BOUND BY LOVE ALONE**

Read Luke 23:36-43.

**Symbol:** a sign saying, "This is the king of the Jews"

### **Questions for discussion**

1. Do you think Jesus could have come down off the cross if He had wanted?
2. Why didn't He?
3. Would it have been tempting for Jesus to jump off the cross to prove to everyone that He was God?
4. If Jesus had chosen to get off the cross and not die, would our sins still be forgiven?
5. Which of the criminals was forgiven?

### **Key concepts**

When a criminal was crucified, the list of crimes he committed would be written on a sign and placed above his head. The sign placed above Jesus' head read, "This is the king of the Jews." Many people

came by and made fun of Jesus, saying, "If you really are God, then save yourself."

One of the criminals being crucified near Jesus said, "If you are the Christ, then save yourself and us, too." The other criminal said, "Don't you fear God? We deserve to die as we have done wrong, but Jesus has done no wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered, "Today, you will be with Me in paradise," meaning that he would be in heaven with Jesus. It might have been tempting for Jesus to prove He was God by getting off the cross, but then He would not have completed the very important job of dying to obtain forgiveness for everyone's sins.

### **A BITTER DRINK**

Read John 19:28-30.

**Symbol:** a sponge, or some vinegar to taste

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What do you say when you need a drink?
2. What kind of drink do you prefer?
3. What did they give Jesus to drink?

### **Key concepts**

When Jesus asked for a drink, they gave Him vinegar to drink. John says that Jesus, knowing all that was to happen and that Scripture (prophecies from the Old Testament) would be fulfilled, asked for a drink.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Psalm 22:15 and Psalm 69:21.

### **ENSURING HIS DEATH**

Read John 19:31-37.

**Symbol:** a spear (Use pliers to poke the dull end of a sewing needle into the end of a twig. You could also use a little cocktail spear.)

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What did the soldiers usually do to make people on the cross die sooner?
2. What did the soldiers do to make sure Jesus was dead?

## Key concepts

The soldiers usually broke people's legs to make them die on the cross sooner, but they did not break Jesus' legs. To confirm that Jesus was dead, they stuck a spear in His side instead. The Old Testament said that not one of Jesus' bones would be broken and that He would be pierced.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Psalm 34:19-20, Zechariah 12:10 and Isaiah 53:5.

## MIRACULOUS SIGNS

Read Matthew 27:51-54.

**Item:** a length of fabric torn in two

## Questions for discussion

1. What would you think if you were standing in the church and you saw a curtain tear in two when no one was around? What if there was thunder and an earthquake too? What if graves opened up and people came out and walked around?
2. How would you have felt if you were the centurion guarding the body of Jesus on the cross?
3. What do you do at night when you are scared, hungry or need something?
4. Who comes to help at any time of the night?
5. Who else can you go to for help and comfort?

## Key concepts

In the temple, there were two rooms: the outer room, and the inner room. The walls were made with thick curtains. The curtain that separated these two rooms was the curtain that was torn in two. Only once a year, the high priest entered the inner room. In the inner room, he would sprinkle the blood he got from a lamb that had been sacrificed.

When Jesus died, it was no longer necessary for the high priest to go into the inner room and sacrifice on behalf of the people to have their sins forgiven. Jesus did that for us. Jesus was the sacrifice!

When the curtain was torn in two, the earth shook and rocks split. Holy people came out of their graves and walked around. How amazing! The centurion who was guarding Jesus as He hung dying on the cross was terrified and exclaimed, "Surely, He was the Son of God!" We know Jesus was the Son of God. We also know that we can go to God for forgiveness and help any time we are scared.

## THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

Read Matthew 27:57-28:4 and Mark 16:1-15.

**Symbol:** a rock and/or linen strips

## Questions for discussion

1. Who rolled the large stone away?
2. Why was the large stone rolled away?
3. Where did Jesus go?
4. What do you think Mary thought?

## Key concepts

In the days when Jesus lived, people were buried in tombs and wrapped in linen strips. The entrance to the tombs would be closed with a very large stone. There was a huge stone placed in front of Jesus' tomb. It was so large it would have been impossible to move the stone without many men.

When Mary went to look at the tomb after Jesus body had been laid there, she discovered the stone had been rolled back. She also saw an angel there. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb were so afraid when this happened that they shook! When she looked in the tomb, Mary saw the linen strips just lying there. Jesus had gone!

## AN ANGEL SHARES WONDERFUL NEWS

Read Matthew 28:5-10 and Luke 24:6-12.

**Symbol:** a tiny angel

## Questions for discussion

1. What would you think if you saw an angel?
2. What do you think the women said to each other as they ran to tell the disciples?

## Key concepts

When the women went to look for Jesus, they found His tomb was empty. They saw the linen strips just lying there and Jesus was gone! They also saw an angel there. The angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He had told them He would.

**Prophecy fulfilled:** Jesus Himself prophesied of His resurrection in Matthew 20:17-19.

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## Creative discipline

*Few parents enjoy their God-given responsibility of disciplining their children, and even fewer children enjoy being on the receiving end. The Bible tells us to expect discipline to be uncomfortable, but also promises positive results. This section will provide you with innovative suggestions to use when correcting your children, to help them learn to practice forgiveness.*

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### For problems with forgiving others

#### Biblical basis

Hebrews 12:14-15 *“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”*

#### Suggested disciplinary action

To illustrate how difficult it can be to get rid of “roots of resentment” if they are allowed to grow deep, take your child into your garden or to the park and spend some time pulling up weeds. Dandelions are a good choice as they are very deeply rooted.

Explain to your child that when we refuse to forgive another person, our unforgiveness can cause a deep root of anger or resentment to grow in our hearts. God asks us to offer the same kind of grace and forgiveness to others as He has offered us.

Alternatively, you may wish to discipline an unforgiving child by having them hold a snowball or an ice cube in their hand for 15-30 seconds. After they have chilled their hand, have them run their hand under warm water. Explain that when we refuse to forgive, we are being cold-hearted like the snowball and “missing the grace of God.” Jesus

wants to put His love in our hearts so that we can offer forgiveness to others. Forgiving others warms our hearts and their hearts, just like the warm water warmed your hand.

#### Affirmation

Read Matthew 6:14-15 together: *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* Pray with your child, asking God to give them a forgiving heart.

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## Hands-on options

*Frequent revision is essential to the learning process. These easy-to-implement suggestions will help you reinforce the concept of forgiveness at opportune moments throughout the week – whether you’re in the kitchen or in the car.*

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### Blessing instead of cursing

*any time*

Have your children practice thinking of a blessing they can say when other children say or do unkind or hurtful things. Then when these things do happen, your children will be more prepared to bless instead of “curse,” helping them to fulfil 1 Peter 3:9 which states: *“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”*

In difficult situations, have your children pray for the person who they need to forgive and also say good things about them. Gently remind your children that they are being like Jesus when they forgive the other person – even when the other person hasn’t asked for forgiveness.

Read Romans 12:21: *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* Let your children know that when they “bless and do not curse,” they are overcoming evil and winning the battle against Satan, who would prefer them to curse the other person.

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### Bitter roots

*fun with food*

Have your children taste a bitter, non-poisonous root such as ginger. Alternatively, use some horseradish,

lemon juice or lime juice. Have something sweet on hand for your children to eat to remove the bitter taste. Then read Hebrews 12:14-15.

### Questions for discussion

- Do you prefer a bitter or a sweet taste?
- How did you make the bad taste in your mouth go away?
- How can we make sure no bitter roots grow up in our family and among our friends?

### Key concepts

One of Satan's favourite tools to cause discord in families and churches is the root of bitterness. It happens easily: one person does wrong to another without realizing it and then the person who feels wronged holds a grudge. Pretty soon everyone is so busy being bitter towards each other, they forget to love each other.

If we miss the grace of God, we harbour grudges and do not forgive. On the other hand, when we share the grace of God with others, we readily forgive before the other person asks our forgiveness.

Holding grudges and not forgiving puts a bad taste in our relationships like the \_\_\_\_\_ (bitter tasting food). When we forgive others, it is like the \_\_\_\_\_ (sweet treat). When you ate the \_\_\_\_\_, it helped to take the bad taste out of your mouth. Just as the sweet taste took away the bitter taste, so God can remove unforgiveness from our hearts and replace it with love.

### Relevant Scripture

Hebrews 12:14-15 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

### Fun with laundry

*servicing others*

On laundry day, take some very dirty whites and show them to your children. When you do the laundry, add bleach or fabric whitener to the load so that the clothes come out bright white. Have your

children compare the clothing items before and after they have been washed.

Then use 1 John 1:8-9 and Isaiah 1:18 to explain the beauty of God's forgiveness to your children. Take some time to ask your children if they want to have stained hearts or washed hearts. Pray a **kids talk with God** prayer together.

During the course of your study on forgiveness, when your children sin, suggest that you pray together so that God can "wash" the sin from their hearts.

### Relevant Scripture

1 John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Isaiah 1:18 ". . . Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

### God's sponge

*any time*

Where there are children, there will be spills, be it food, milk or water. Take advantage of a "spill" that takes place in your home by telling your children about "God's sponge."

As you are cleaning up the mess, equate the spill with someone doing something wrong – something that hurts you. Use an example that your children will relate to, such as name calling, teasing, pushing or taking a toy without permission.

Explain how to respond in these situations by conveying the following message:

What we do in response to the wrongdoing – the "spill" – is our choice. One option is to splash the spill back into the face of the one who has done wrong. This is like trying to make someone "pay" for the wrong they have done.

The other choice is to get out "God's sponge" and quietly wipe up the mess without making the other person feel bad about hurting us. Forgiveness

happens when the person apologizes for doing wrong and we forgive them. Grace happens when we forgive a person who does not acknowledge that they have done wrong. God offers us both grace and forgiveness.

### Relevant Scripture

Nehemiah 9:17 “. . . But You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. . . .”

1 Thessalonians 5:15 “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

### Living in love

any time

Following the directions of Luke 17:3, come up with a variety of scenarios whereby your children can practice “speaking the truth in love.” Here’s an example:

**First question:** “Let’s pretend another child has grabbed the toy you were playing with right out of your hands. What should you say to this boy or girl?”

**Answer:** “That wasn’t nice to grab the toy out of my hands. May I have the toy back please?”

**Second question:** “If the girl/boy will not give the toy back, what should you do?”

**Answer:** “Go and find an adult and explain the situation.”

**Third question:** “If the girl or boy apologizes, what should you say to them?”

**Answer:** “I forgive you. Thank you for giving my toy back. Would you like to play with it when I am done?”

### Relevant Scripture

Luke 17:3 “So watch yourselves. ‘If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.’”

### Heavy luggage

drama / role play

Tell your children that you are going on a journey. Load a tool belt full of tools, pack a backpack with cans of food and bottles of water and fill a suitcase with heavy clothing. Have your children dress in heavy clothing as well. Then take turns carrying all of these heavy items around until your children understand what the phrases “a burden too heavy to bear” and “my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer,” mean (Psalm 32:4).

### Questions for discussion

- How does it feel to wear all these extra clothes and to carry all this extra baggage?
- How can sin make us feel heavy?
- What can you do to remove extra weight?
- What can you do to remove the heaviness of sin?
- How do we feel after God has forgiven our sins?

Read Psalm 32:1-5 and explain that King David felt weighed down by his sin until he confessed his sins. Just as taking off the heavy clothing and setting down the luggage is a big relief, so we are refreshed and filled with joy when God forgives our sins. At the end of Psalm 32 David says, “Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart” (Psalm 32:11). When we confess our sins and choose to do right instead of wrong, we feel much happier than when we hold on to sin.

### Other ideas

If you have read *Pilgrim’s Progress*, re-enact Christian’s journey, ending with his arrival at the cross where his burden (of sin) falls from his back.

### Relevant Scripture

Psalm 38:4 “My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.”

### Clean hearts

science with a twist

You will need some white cotton fabric (an old washcloth or pillowcase works well), washable felt tip markers, bleach, water and a bowl

- 1 Premix a solution of equal parts of water and bleach.
- 2 Cut a heart shape out of easily-bleached cotton fabric. Have your children colour all over it with washable felt tip markers. As they are colouring, tell them that the heart represents our hearts and the felt marks represent sin. Talk about what sins they might be.
- 3 Next, dip the heart in the bleach solution. As you do so, read 1 John 1:8-9: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- 4 Explain that God promises to take our sins that are as red as the red felt tip marker and make them white like snow, or as bright as the freshly-bleached fabric heart.
- 5 Next, read Isaiah 1:18: “. . . Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” Take a minute to ask your children if they want to have stained hearts or washed hearts. Pray a prayer together from the **kids talk with God** section.

Allow your children to keep their fabric hearts as a reminder of God’s promise to forgive sins. During the week, when your children sin, ask if they have put some marks on their heart. Suggest that you pray together so that God can “wash” the sin from their hearts.

## A picture of pain

*drama / role play*

The story of the Cross is probably the best object lesson on forgiveness available. To reinforce your teaching on forgiveness, take your children to see an Easter play that portrays the crucifixion – provided they have the maturity to understand it without being traumatized. For young ones, a children’s movie featuring the Easter story may be more suitable.

## Questions for discussion

Ask your children the following to help them further understand the significance of Jesus’ sacrifice:

- What is the worst pain you have ever had?
- Which is worse, pain in your heart or pain felt in your body?
- Did Jesus have only body pain or did He have pain in His heart, too? Why?
- How much do you think it hurt to have nails put through Jesus’ hands and feet? (John 20:24-27)
- Do you think it hurt Jesus to have His friends turn away from Him? (Matthew 26:56)
- Did Jesus deserve to be punished like this? (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Why did Jesus do it? (John 3:16)
- What did Jesus say about those who killed Him? (Luke 23:34)
- Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive your sins?

*Ask the Holy Spirit to be present when you offer your children an opportunity to ask God for forgiveness of their sins.*

## Relevant Scripture

John 20:24-25,27 “Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it.’ . . . Then He [Jesus] said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.’ ”

Matthew 26:56 “ ‘But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.’ Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Luke 23:34 “Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’”

## A yucky lesson

*fun with food*

*Some families choose not participate in any activities that are associated with Halloween. If this is the situation with your family, please do not be offended by this suggestion. We respect your choice to pass over this activity option.*

You will need a whole pumpkin, squash or eggplant to complete this activity.

- 1 Carve out the insides of the pumpkin with your children. As you are removing the seeds and slime from the pumpkin, explain to your children that just as you are cleaning the inside of the pumpkin and taking out all the “yucky” stuff, Jesus cleans all the “yuck” (sin) from inside our hearts. Talk about what kind of “yuck” there might be inside of us (unforgiveness, unkindness, anger, hate, envy, jealousy, disrespect, etc.).
- 2 Carve a design on the pumpkin – perhaps a cross or a smiling face.
- 3 Then place a candle inside the pumpkin and turn off the lights. (*Be sure never to leave the candle unattended. You may wish to use a flashlight instead of a candle.*) Tell your children that just as the candle lights up the inside of the pumpkin, Jesus’ light shines inside our hearts and radiates so that other people can see it. When we ask Jesus to come and live in us, His love fills our hearts so that we can share it with others (1 John 4:10-15). Other people see this light and are drawn to it. The people who see the light of Jesus’ love in your life may ask why you are the way that you are. Then you can tell them it’s all because you have the love of Jesus in your heart!

## All we like sheep

*getting into nature*

Find some sheep in a farmer’s field, at the zoo or at an agricultural fair and spend some time observing them.

### Questions for discussion

Encourage dialogue on Jesus’ role as a sacrificial lamb by asking these questions:

- What colour is the sheep or lamb’s wool?
- Does it look clean?
- Which do you think is the most perfectly formed sheep?

Explain that in Jesus’ day, the people would out pick the best lamb to give to God. They would kill it and offer it to God as a sacrifice. Because they offered the required sacrifice, God would forgive them for the bad things they had done.

When Jesus came, He was called the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Like the lamb, He was sacrificed so that God would forgive us for all the wrong that we have done and will do. Because Jesus chose to be the lamb who died on the cross, we don’t have to sacrifice lambs as the Israelites did.

### Relevant Scripture

John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

### More questions for discussion

Use this series of questions to help your children understand the concept of Jesus as our shepherd:

- Who takes care of the sheep?
- When the sheep wander away, who brings them back?
- What keeps the sheep from wandering off?

During your discussion, share these key points with your children:

In the Bible, people are often referred to as sheep because we often wander away from God and His truths. We want to do things our own way. Jesus is the shepherd who can bring us back to God. We need to believe and accept that Jesus died on the cross to forgive us for the bad things that we have done.

If we believe in Jesus, then Jesus will bring us back to God. God will be pleased with us again because of what Jesus has done for our sake. So Jesus is like a shepherd – our shepherd! The fence that God has given us to remind us not to wander away from God’s plan for our lives is the Bible (Psalm 119:9-11).

### **Relevant Scripture**

Psalm 119:9-11 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.”



### **Recommended resources**

For a list of children’s stories that reinforce the theme of this lesson, consult the home page for the **forgiveness** lesson at [Kidsofintegrity.com](http://Kidsofintegrity.com).

# Planning card for forgiveness

point form

## God's way

### I am demonstrating godly character when:

- I am willing to forgive others
- I am gracious and tolerant
- I am quick to admit I am wrong and say I am sorry

## My way

### When I am tempted to:

- be unforgiving
- be vengeful, bitter or resentful
- refuse to admit that I am wrong or say sorry

## And God is pleased!

## I know that I need to go to God for help.

*This week, we will focus on learning about forgiveness by:*

**Date complete:**

**Daily reminders:** PRAY! | Speak words of blessing and affirmation | Review memory verse

**Memory verse:**

# Planning card for forgiveness

calendar form

## God's way

### I am demonstrating godly character when:

- I am willing to forgive others
- I am gracious and tolerant
- I am quick to admit I am wrong and say I am sorry

## My way

### When I am tempted to:

- be unforgiving
- be vengeful, bitter or resentful
- refuse to admit that I am wrong or say sorry

## And God is pleased!

## I know that I need to go to God for help.

### This week, we will focus on learning about forgiveness by:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Daily reminders: **PRAY!** | Speak words of blessing and affirmation | Review memory verse

Memory verse: