

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

Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

Bottom Line

When you forgive others, it can change them.

Activity

Lucky Pennies

What You Need:

Several dirty pennies, a bowl of water, ketchup (or toothpaste), a towel, and an old toothbrush

What You Need:

Lay out the towel and set the bowl with water on top. Lay out the dirty pennies, ketchup, and toothbrush.

Give your child the pennies and point out how dirty they are. Ask what they think will happen if they rub ketchup on them. Then, squirt a small amount of ketchup (a little goes a LONG way) onto each penny.

Instruct your child to use the old toothbrush to rub the ketchup onto the pennies, scrubbing them clean. Then place them in the bowl of water to rinse. Wipe the pennies dry on the towel, and then admire how clean they are.

Say, "Just a little ketchup completely changed those pennies, didn't it? That's what forgiveness does for us—it has the power to change us!"



Talk About the Bible Story

Who from our story today was changed by Jesus' love and forgiveness? (*Zacchaeus*)

Does everyone change when we forgive them? (*No, but many do.*)

Have you ever changed the way you acted because you've been forgiven? How?

Parent: Share about a time when someone forgave you and it changed you. Maybe, as a kid, you said something hurtful to your sibling. How did your sibling's willingness to forgive you change the way you treated them later?



Prayer

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

"God, thank You for showing us what true love and forgiveness look like. We're sorry for the things we've done wrong. Thank You for always loving us and being faithful to forgive us. Please help us forgive others, even when we feel hurt or angry. Help us to accept Your forgiveness in our lives and then offer forgiveness to others. We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."