



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

Key Question

What keeps you from forgiving?

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

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."

