

FORGIVENESS

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

Read Psalm 130:3-4

DAY 1

This month is all about forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. Forgiveness doesn't come naturally. When someone does something that hurts us, we want to hurt them back. But forgiveness calls for us to do just the opposite. Why? Because God forgives us!

Figure out the secret message below by writing the NEXT letter of the alphabet that comes after the one printed below. (Hint: for "Z" the next letter would be "A")

ENQFHU D NSGDQR ADBZTRD FNC ENQFHU DR XNT

Thank God for choosing to forgive always because He loves you.

Answer: Forgive others because God forgives you.

Read Matthew 18:32-33

DAY 2

Jesus told a story about a servant who owed a king 10,000 bags of gold. He didn't have the money to repay the debt.

So what did the king do? He forgave the man, cancelling his debt. Then that servant went out and found a man who owed him 100 silver coins. He didn't have the money to repay the debt.

What did that forgiven servant do? He had him thrown in prison until he could pay it back.

When we refuse to forgive, we're just like that servant. God chooses to forgive us, just like that king, when we don't deserve it. We forgive because we've been forgiven.

Write the word "BECAUSE" in large block letters. Decorate the inside of the letters any way you choose. Hang your artwork on the fridge. When a family member asks about it, explain that it's a reminder this week to forgive others BECAUSE God forgives you.

Tell God thank you for choosing to forgive like the king in this story. Ask Him to help you respond with forgiveness.



Read 1 John 1:9

DAY 3

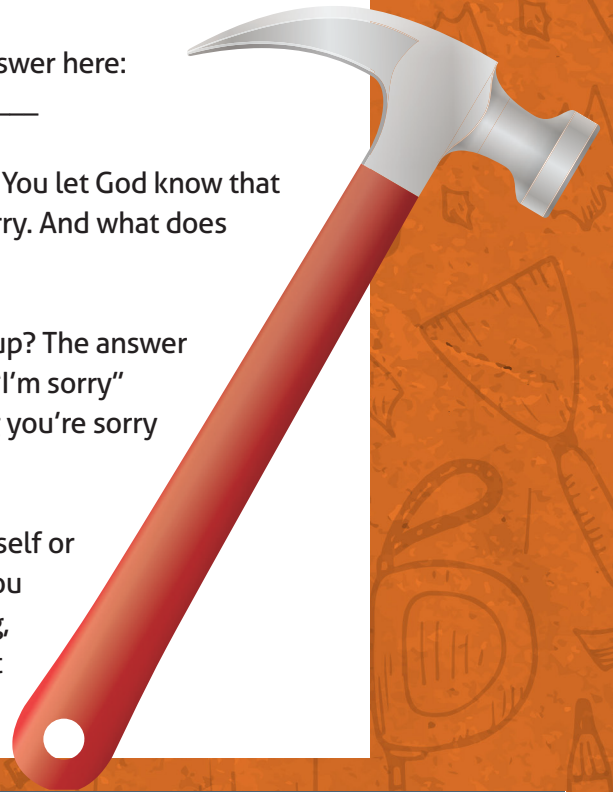
God sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die and rise again so that we could be forgiven. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, you become a part of God's family forever. But that doesn't mean you'll stop messing up.

Do you know what the word "confess" means? Write down your answer here:

To "confess" means that when you're wrong, you say you're wrong. You let God know that YOU know you messed up. You tell Him and then you say you're sorry. And what does God do when we admit we're wrong? He forgives. Always.

Maybe you're thinking, but doesn't God already know I've messed up? The answer is "yes, He does" because God knows everything. Just like saying, "I'm sorry" helps fix the problem between you and a friend you've hurt, saying you're sorry to God helps you stay connected to Him.

As you pray today, write down something you've done to hurt yourself or others this week. Tell God how sorry you are and ask Him to help you make a different choice next time. When you're finished confessing, tear up the paper into small pieces and throw it away, knowing that you've been forgiven.



Read Colossians 3:13

DAY 4

When someone hurts you or does something unkind, you could choose to stay mad or as Queen Elsa would say, you could "let it go!" That's what the "put up with one another" part of this verse means. If you chose to stay mad, anger is all you'd have left.

If someone is consistently being unkind, you need to ask a trusted adult for help. But for the everyday mistakes people make, forgiveness is always the wise choice. Remember, God doesn't hold your mess-ups against you. He is always willing to "let it go" when we mess up.

Check out the new lyrics to "Let It Go" below (you can even sing them if you want to). Then pray, thanking God for His willingness to forgive you, always.

**Let it go, let it go
Can't stay mad forevermore
Let it go, let it go
Forgive and open the door.
I don't care if it seems crazy
Let it go and move on
It wasn't really worth it anyway.**



*Forgive others
because God
forgives you.*