

Forgiving in My Family

How does your family say, "I'm Sorry", when you hurt one another?

Do you...

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|-----------|
| → Just get mad when things go wrong and walk away? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Sit down and talk about what just happened? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Just hope everyone involved forgets about it? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Shake hands and make an agreement? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Write a letter of apology? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Say a prayer asking for forgiveness? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Hide out in your rooms until the storm passes? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Leave each other notes of forgiveness? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Make sure no one goes to bed angry with someone? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |
| → Take time each week to talk about how things are going? | YES | NO | SOMETIMES |



Jesus Forgives

How many times do we need to forgive those who hurt us? Read this Gospel story to find out:

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” answered Jesus, “but seventy times seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this.

Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants’ accounts. He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before the king. “Be patient with me,’ he begged, “and I will pay you everything!’ The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go. “Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. “Pay back what you owe me!’ he said. His fellow servant fell down and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. So he called the servant in. “You worthless slave!’ he said. “I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.’ The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should pay back the whole amount.”

And Jesus concluded, “That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” (Matthew 18:21-35)



What would you say to Jesus' question: **Will you forgive your parents, brothers, sisters, friends?** Write your response here.

Be a Forgiving Person

What needs to be in your heart for you to be a forgiving person? Choose the values and practices you need to be a forgiving person and draw a line from them to your heart.

I need to forgive myself.

I need to feel sorry when I hurt others.

I need to ask God to help me see with loving eyes.

I need to remember that God can handle anything.

I need to tell some people that I am sorry.

I need to remember how much God loves me.

I need to manage my anger and hurt feelings better.

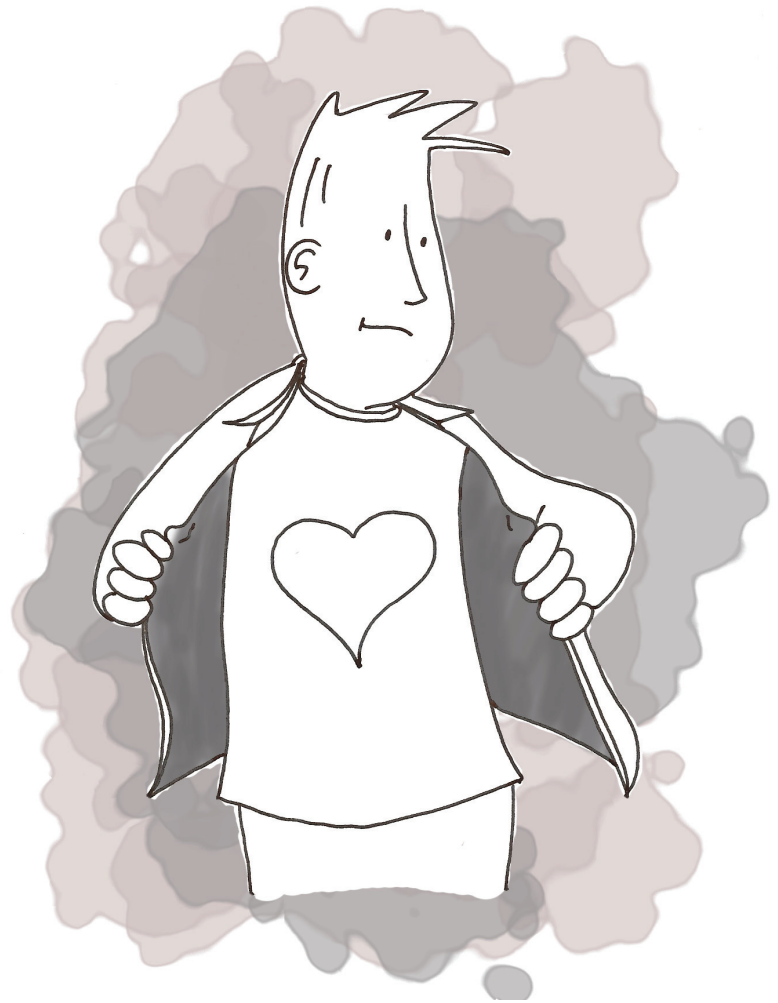
I need to trust that others can be good people.

I need to try harder to think of others needs before my own.

I need to let go of some past hurts and move on to new life.

I need to try and understand things before I assign blame.

I need to listen first and respond second.



Try It! — Forgiving

Forgiving is hard work but it's what Jesus call us to do as we love one another. Here are some situations you might find yourself in. If you were going to practice real forgiveness, what choice would be the best one? Circle the best choice for each.

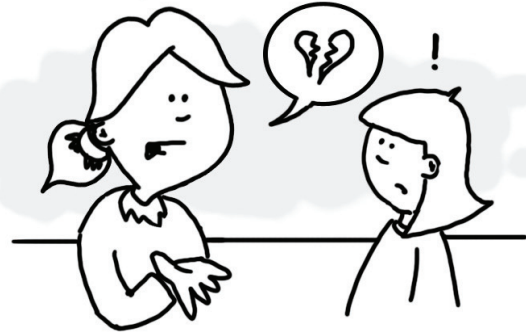
1. Your little brother takes one of your toys or games without asking and accidentally breaks it. Would you:
 - a. Yell at him, call him names, and maybe even hit him.
 - b. Try and explain to him how what he did hurts you.



2. Your Mom forgot to wake you up on Saturday morning so that you could watch your favorite TV program. Would you:
 - a. Get real mad and throw a fit.
 - b. Assure your mom that it's OK. You can watch it next week.



3. A friend at school shared a secret of yours with another friend without your permission. Would you:
- Write your friend a nasty note.
 - Talk to your friend about how sharing your secret hurts you and why.



4. Your friends convince you to steal something from a local store. Would you:
- Return to the store later and confess what you did and pay for it.
 - Pretend it was no big deal and not bother admitting your mistake.

