



Raising UP SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

FORGIVING: Another chance

Also in this newsletter:

- Connect Your Kids to God • Family Fun • Easy Bonus Activity

TIP:
Display this newsletter at home, and use the activities as desired throughout the week.



Questions to Go at bedtime, mealtime or car time

- How many times do you think you should forgive someone?
- What would you do if someone asked for you to forgive him or her?
- What would you do if someone hurt you but didn't ask for forgiveness?

Verse to Chew on

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. . . . Restore to me the joy of your salvation" (Psalm 51:10,12, NIV).

- Share when you might want to pray like this.
- Talk about how sin can make us unhappy. Remind your kids how important it is to let God forgive and restore us to a right relationship with Him.

Character Builder: Forgiving

People who are forgiving have a gracious and humble attitude. They are kind and compassionate toward people who have wronged them. Is it possible to see that trait in children?

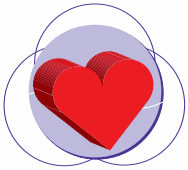
- **Being forgiving** can be learned. Some kids are more forgiving by nature. But when you think about how hard it can be for you to forgive people, you may be more understanding when your kids have trouble developing a forgiving nature.
- **Being forgiving** is healthy. The opposite of forgiving—bitterness, hatred, holding grudges—is emotionally and physically harmful. Unforgiving kids become unforgiving adults. Keep your kids accountable for their actions and you'll save them from much misery.
- **Being forgiving** is being like God. A relationship with Him begins with His forgiveness. A continued relationship with Him depends on His continued forgiveness. It's a major theme of the Bible.

Not an Easy Fix

Sometimes you still feel bad toward someone even after you've forgiven the person. Some injuries are deep or recurrent. In these cases, gently help your kids to continue to forgive and to get additional help, if needed.

Preschool Focus

As you read stories with your young child, be alert to scenes where characters do or say hurtful things. Ask your child what the hurt character could do and say to the other person to show forgiveness.



Connect Your Kids to God

What do I do if I don't feel close to God anymore?

Sometimes you feel close to God and you know He loves you. Sometimes He seems far away. Here are some things that can keep you close to God whether you're feeling close to Him or not.

Read the Bible. It tells how much God loves His children and how He wants them to live (see Psalm 100:5 and Romans 5:8).

Tell Him you're sorry. When you do something wrong, you may not feel like talking to God. But that's exactly when He wants you to come to Him. Talk to Him often. You might say, "Wow, God, what a beautiful day You made today!" or "Help me be a good friend today."

You Can Do It!

- Select a Bible verse that shows the kinds of relationships God wants you to have.
- Read that verse at bedtime or mealtime every day for a week.
- A good verse would be Luke 10:27 that talks about loving God, and loving others as much as we love ourselves.

Family Fun

The Bible records God's people celebrating life and significant events throughout the year. Celebrating gave them a sense of connectedness and reminded them of God's faithfulness (see Psalm 145:4,7). Look for opportunities to celebrate everyday things and let your kids experience God's goodness. Celebrating can be as simple as singing a song or playing a board game together. Celebrate things like:

- Efforts in school and sports
- First lost tooth; first day of school
- End of the school year; beginning of winter
- Something from each family member's life

Visit www.raisingupspiritualchampions.com for more Family Fun.

Did You Know?

"Teaching children how to make decisions and giving them lots of practice are crucial for learning values. Many Christian parents are afraid to let their children make decisions for fear they will make the wrong ones."

—Donna J. Habenicht, *10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2000), p. 93.

Easy Bonus Activity

Families have lots of opportunities to practice forgiveness! But sometimes it's hard to go to someone and ask for forgiveness. To make it easier, think of a family code you can use, for example, giving the "peace" sign, to let someone know you need to talk.

Preschool Focus

When your young child has done something wrong, a cue might be you saying, "Uh-oh." Then she says, "Sorry" and you say, "I forgive you" followed with a hug and a smile. Soon she will be saying "Uh-oh" to you.