

FORGIVENESS PARENT PREVIEW

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Forgiveness

Forgiveness deals with our emotional response toward an offender. Pardon deals with the consequences of his/her offense. Unless we have the authority we may not be able to pardon an offense, but we can always forgive.

Forgiving a person is "clearing his/her record" with us and transferring the responsibility for any punishment to God. Forgiveness will make it possible for us to have the same openness toward our offender after the offense as we had before he/she offended us.



Learning Forgiveness

It is out of a need for forgiveness that a person is able to forgive others. Those who suppose they do not need forgiveness tend to be rigid and critical of others, while those who have been forgiven are the first to forgive others. Forgiveness is not ignoring wrong, setting aside standards of truth and virtue, or excusing from responsibility for wrong actions. Forgiveness clears the slate and starts over.

6 Basic Aspects of Forgiveness

1. It involves a positive attitude toward the offender rather than a negative attitude
2. It views the offender as an "instrument" in God's Hand. Luke 23:24
3. It looks at the wounds of the offense as God's way of drawing attention to the offender's needs. Acts 16:16-18
4. It recognizes that bitterness is assuming a right we don't have. Rom 12:19, 17-20
5. Forgiveness realizes that the offender has already begun receiving the consequences of his offenses.
6. Forgiveness involves cooperating with God in the offender's life.

Forgiveness is having a greater concern for a person after he offends me than I did before he offended me. It is using the hurts of others as the basis of demonstrating Christ's love back to them.

Forgiveness Song

Forgiving someone is like taking an offense and throwing it into the ocean. This song helps to remind children not to "go fishing" for the offenses they have already forgiven.

"I kept a record for my whole life long, of all the people who had done me wrong.

Marking on the walls I built around my heart, every mark was like a poison dart.

But now I'm choosing to forgive every last offense. Keep the record clean! Never seek revenge! I'm choosing to forgive, tearing down the wall, wiping it away, 'Til there's nothing left at all!"

This Month's Character

Definition:

Forgiveness is clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge.

Praising To Build Forgiveness

As parents we should take every opportunity to praise children when they show a willingness to forgive.

If a child confesses a wrong action before he is caught, praise him for his truthfulness. The wrong action cannot be excused, but praise the good, and possibly give a milder correction. Individuals must realize that there are consequences to wrong actions; however, by going to an authority first, one is usually worked with and granted a lighter punishment.

Many people have vivid memories of times when they were made fun of and rejected. The pain may have continued for years. We should be alert to situations where children have been hurt. Each situation is a great opportunity to help teach and develop inward character in the child.

"I know what he said to you really hurt, and I thank God for His grace in your life for your willingness and initiative to forgive him."

"Doesn't it feel great to be forgiven! Now, when someone has done something like that to you and asks for forgiveness, you will know just how he feels and will be able to forgive."

Christ-centered character is essential to everyone and is what makes people successful. At KK4C we help each student grow in character by focusing on one quality at a time and understanding its nature, importance, and benefits. By relating each quality to everyday situations, children can discover how to apply and reap its rewards.

I Will:

1. I will be quick to forgive.
2. I will not cover up my own wrong doings but will be quick to ask forgiveness.
3. I will not seek revenge.
4. I will respond kindly to those who hurt me.
5. I will not take up offenses for others.

Scripture Memory

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph 4:32)

How To Ask for Forgiveness

Wrong Ways that will not work imply that it was not the offender's fault that they offended the other person and makes no commitment to personal change:

- "I was wrong, but you were too."
- "If I was wrong, please forgive me."
- "I'm sorry you were hurt by what happened."

Correct genuine statements which reflect true sincerity and humility and responsibility for wrong actions and makes a commitment to personal change to prevent future recurrence of the same failure:

- "God has convicted me of how wrong I have been in (my attitude and actions). I have wronged you in this, and I've come to ask, will you forgive me?"
- "I was wrong, I am sorry, will you forgive me?"
- **"I am sorry that I was irresponsible and that I hurt you. I have learned an important lesson and am committing myself to be more responsible from now on."**