



WEEK THREE

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JESUS TEACHES ON FORGIVENESS • MATTHEW 5:1-2; 23-24

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ASK THIS:

WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM FORGIVING?



DO THIS:



God says that loving others means making the first move. Whether you need to be forgiven or whether you need to forgive, if something is wrong between you and someone else, you need to take a step to make things right. You might even say that choosing to make peace with others through forgiveness is one of the best gifts you can give God! Pray that God will help you make the first move to forgive.



REMEMBER THIS:

"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

**FORGIVENESS:**  
DECIDING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS WRONGED YOU DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY



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STORIES THAT TEACH FORGIVENESS

By Dan Scott

Forgiveness can be hard.

We all have this tendency to hold our hurt and carry it around like a weight in a backpack. We just keep piling in those hurts, until we bend and break beneath the weight of our bitterness. Even as adults, this is something we're prone to do. No matter how hard we try forgiveness doesn't seem to be our natural instinct.

Imagine how difficult it must be for our kids. They're just learning to grapple with the emotions associated with hurt. Friends can be fickle. Hurt people hurt people. And our kids are left aching from the hurt; yet they're unable to process what they're feeling and find the path towards forgiveness.

As parents, we try and help them see how forgiveness will free them from the additional hurt that comes. But kids are often too close to the situation to see any other option than letting the bitterness sink in making way for revenge to take over. And so, our words fail us and we need some help.

Thankfully, we have stories. Stories over time give us a perspective on life we can't see on our own. Forgiveness is one of those areas where stories can offer a perspective for you and your kids

to discover a pathway out of the pain to find a place where you can let go of that bitterness backpack you've been carrying around.

Here are several ideas for where to start with stories that teach the idea of forgiveness for Upper Elementary/ Middle School:

- "Meaniehead" - Bruce Eric Kaplan
- "The Lemonade Crime" - Jacqueline Davies
- "The Hundred Dresses" - Eleanor Estes
- "Shiloh Season" - Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- "The Year the Swallows Came Early" - Kathryn Fitzmaurice
- "Birthdays" - Wendy Mass



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