



Raising UP SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

FORGIVING: Let It Go!

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 does it feel when someone forgives you for something you've done wrong?
- What can happen to you if you don't forgive people who wrong you?
- When is it hardest to forgive others? What do you do in those times?

Verse to Chew on

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13, *NIV*).

- Talk with your kids about what it means to forgive: don't seek revenge; act like it never happened; overlook the fault; let it go!
- What kinds of things does God forgive? What kinds of things should you forgive?

Character Builder: Forgiving

Kids need to be taught to have a forgiving attitude. They will continue to need prompts to forgive, so don't get discouraged along the way. Here are some things you can do to help them.

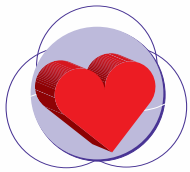
- **Teach phrases like**, "I'm sorry for . . ." and "I forgive you." After a hurtful incident between two people, instruct those involved to face each other and say those words. Depending on the situation, a cooling off time may be needed first. This resolution can keep resentment from building up. If you see indications later that one child wasn't sorry or didn't forgive, review the need to forgive or to repent.
- **Talk about Jesus' story** of a master who forgave his servant a huge debt. The servant left the master and saw someone who owed him a little but the servant would not forgive him his debt. The master heard about it and was so angry he put the servant in prison until he could pay back what he owed (see Matthew 18:21-35). Jesus said, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart" (verse 35, *NIV*).

Examples to Follow

Be free with apologies to your kids when you've acted or spoken out wrongly. Simply say, "I did this . . . and I was wrong. I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?" These times will be some of your most effective training moments.

Preschool Focus

Even young kids can be taught to say "I'm sorry" when they do something wrong. Don't spend too much time on a situation. Just correct the behavior and go through the process. Eventually, they will understand and be more willing and able to offer a sincere apology.



Connect Your Kids to God

What kinds of things make God happy?

God is happy to have you as His child. He created you. He sent His Son to earth to die for you so you could be forgiven and be with Him forever. And He loves to be part of your life every day.

God loves when you praise and worship Him. He has given you so many reasons to sing a song to Him and tell how much you love Him.

God is happy when you obey Him. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1, *NIV*).

You Can Do It!

Share with your kids regularly the kinds of things that please you as their parent.

- "I feel happy when you smile at me and give me hugs."
- "I like it when you do what I ask you to do."
- "I am so glad that you are my child. You are very special to me."

Family Fun

Share your dreams with your family. Take turns letting each person share a dream or two. Don't allow others to laugh at someone's dream. Use these questions to get everyone talking. Do this every once in a while and see how people change or move toward making dreams happen.

- What would you like to be doing in 10 or 20 years?
- Where would you like to live?
- Are any of these dreams possible? What steps would you have to take to fulfill your dreams?
- What is our family dream for the next 2 or 5 years?
- Is it something we could make happen together? How?

Visit www.raisingupspiritualchampions.com for more Family Fun.

Did You Know?

"Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs."

—Proverbs 10:12, *NIV*

Easy Bonus Activity

- Personalize a Scripture passage on forgiveness with your family's names and read it together.
- For example (see Colossians 3:12-13), "God loves the Lawsons as His special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, and patient. Put up with Mom and Dad, and forgive Jed or Zac, just as Christ has forgiven you."

Preschool Focus

Make two of your young child's stuffed animals have a fight. Use silly voices. One says, "I'm sorry" and the other says, "I forgive you." Give one animal to your child and reenact the fight again. Make your animal say, "I'm sorry" and your child's animal say, "I forgive you."