DEVOTIONAL
for parents



A SERIES ON LOVING OTHERS

Apologies — they're hard to give, but they're sometimes hard to receive, too. When you're the one who has hurt someone else, saying you're sorry (and actually meaning it) takes work and practice. But when you're the one who's been hurt by someone else, things get even more complicated. What if you don't want to forgive them? What if they don't seem sorry? What if they won't even admit they're wrong? What if they've moved on, but you're still not over it? In this 4-week series from the Gospels, we'll find out what it means to truly give (and receive) forgiveness. We'll discover that when you need forgiveness,
forgive, we'll explore the importance of **shifting your perspective**, remembering **God forgave first,** and remembering **Jesus knows what it's like to be hurt.**

Want to learn and grow alongside your kid as we go through this teaching series? You can! Spend a few minutes each week **studying** the passages of Scripture we'll be teaching, **praying** about what God wants to do in you and in your family, and **growing** by putting God's words into practice in your own life.

WEEK 1 When you need forgiveness, don't just apologize.

Psalm 32:5; Luke 19:1-10; Proverbs 28:13

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week. **What stands out to you in this passage and why?**

PRAY

Pray and ask God to help you go beyond words and live out real change.

GROW

So what's your next step? Is there something you've apologized for but haven't fully made right? What would it look like to not only say you're sorry but show it with your actions? How might God's forgiveness inspire you to offer that same kind of restoration to others? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 2 When it's hard to forgive, shift your perspective.

Psalm 17:6-7; Job 19:23-25; Matthew 5:43-44; Colossians 3:1-2

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week. **What stands out to you in this passage and why?**

PRAY

Pray for help to see others the way God sees them, and the ability to give grace when forgiveness feels difficult.

GROW

So what's your next step? How might shifting your focus to God's grace and love help you take a step toward forgiveness, even if it's just a small one? Could choosing to pray for the person who hurt you soften your heart over time? And what would it look like to believe that healing and forgiveness can happen, even if things aren't perfect yet? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 3 When forgiveness is needed, remember God forgave first.

Isaiah 12:1-3; Matthew 18:21-33; Romans 7:18-19

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week. **What stands out to you in this passage and why?**

PRAY

Thank God for showing you what forgiveness looks like, and pray for help remembering how deeply you've been forgiven when

GROW

So what's your next step? Is there someone you're finding it hard to forgive right now? Could reflecting on God's mercy shift your perspective or soften your response? Are you holding on to something that's keeping you stuck in bitterness, and how would it feel to let go, not just for their sake, but for yours too? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 4 When you've been hurt, know Jesus has too.

Psalm 109:6-15, 147:3; Luke 22:39-23:46

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week. **What stands out to you in this passage and why?**

PRAY

Pray and ask God to remind you that you're not alone in your pain.

GROW

So what's your next step? Is there a moment of hurt that you're carrying right now? How does it feel to know Jesus has experienced deep pain too—pain from betrayal, injustice, loneliness, and suffering? Is there someone you trust who could walk with you in this healing process? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.