

Growing Together

Jesus wants us to be fair.

Bible Story
Zacchaeus changes his ways. (Luke 19:1-10)

Key Verse
"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you" (Matthew 7:12a).

In Touch

Today your child learned from the story of Zacchaeus that it's important to treat others fairly. The children learned that even when others treat them unfairly, God still wants them to be fair. It's a tall order, but you can reinforce this point by making your home a place where fairness is practiced regularly. Use these ideas to help.

The Great Divide



Use this method to keep things fair around your house. If two family members want to share the last piece of cake or the last cookie, have one person divide the piece in half and have the other person choose which of the two pieces he or she wants.

Fair Punishment



Help your child understand the way God combines fairness with mercy. When your child does something wrong, discuss what happened. Then have your child decide what a fair punishment would be. You'll find that many times your child will be much harder on himself or herself than you would be. Together choose a reasonable punishment. Don't forget to be merciful—make sure your child knows he or she can make a fresh start, with all past mistakes forgotten.

Keep Away

Play Keep Away with your family. Talk about how it feels to be the person in the middle who doesn't get a turn with the ball. Is it more fair for the shortest person or the tallest person to be in the middle? Together, modify the game so everyone can enjoy playing.

Fairness Forum

Make sure it's OK for family members to tell each other when they think they've been treated unfairly. Give each family member the power to call a meeting. Ask, "How did you feel when that happened?" "Why do you think it was unfair?" and "What could we do differently?" Have family members apologize when they've treated someone unfairly.