

S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors.
Matthew 6:12

Forgive Us as We Forgive Others

In Matthew 6, what we call The Lord's Prayer, Jesus gave the example of how we should pray. In verse 12 He prayed, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." A debt is something we owe. Our debtors are people who owe us. Have you ever been told, "You owe him an apology?" It is not always easy to ask for forgiveness. Neither is it easy to forgive someone who has hurt us in some way.

As Jesus hung on the cross dying in Luke 23:34, it says, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Jesus forgave those who had falsely accused Him, put a spear in his side, spit on him, pulled his beard out, pushed a crown of thorns into his head, and nailed his hands and feet to a cross. Those terrible people should have been the ones asking Jesus to forgive them. They owed Him an apology! But Jesus forgave them without them even asking Him to!

Anytime someone does us wrong, they owe us a debt of apology. Have you ever been teased, bullied, or called a bad name? Everyone is treated badly from time to time. How many times has someone who has treated you badly come back to admit their wrong, and ask you to forgive them? Probably not very many times. Just as David prayed in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me," we should ask God to help us forgive others and to keep our heart and attitude right, so that we can please Him.

Family Prayer: "Dear Lord, thank you for the many times that you have forgiven me when I have done wrong. And just as you demonstrated on the cross, help me to forgive others, even if they don't ask, so that my heart can be pure. In Your precious name, Jesus, amen!"

Includes
Family
Activities

Want more?
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Bonus
Pages



Do a Bible search on forgiveness. Let each family member pick a verse to write on an index card. Place these cards in very visible places (for example: the fridge, the bathroom mirror, the car) as a reminder to forgive others daily. Commit as many of these verses to memory as possible this week.

Let's talk!

Some people have a very difficult time saying, "I'm sorry, please forgive me." Are you one of those people? On the other hand, if someone asks your forgiveness, is it difficult not to remind them of their faults later on? Discuss these issues as a family.

Search your heart diligently this week. There is nothing or no one worth being lost over. Ask God to help you show forgiveness if someone has hurt you in the past. If you need to call or go to that person, make sure that, like Jesus on the cross, you can forgive whether they have repented or not. Your responsibility is to keep your own heart pure before God.



Additional Challenges

Our devotion today mentions Psalms 51:10. Spend a few moments reading this chapter. David certainly knew how to ask for forgiveness!

(verse 1) “Have _____ upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies _____ my transgressions.

(2) _____ me throughly from mine iniquity, and _____ me from my sin.

(3) For I acknowledge _____ transgressions: and _____ is ever before me.”

How do you think David’s attitude toward forgiveness helped him to act properly earlier in his life when King Saul was trying to kill him?

(1 Sam 18:11) “And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.” (verse 14) “And David _____
_____ in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.”

I Samuel 24 records another time when Saul was looking for David to kill him. Notice the actions of David in this story.

What did David do when he had a chance to kill Saul?

Even though he didn’t hurt Saul, why did David feel badly that he had even cut Saul’s garment?

Even Saul had to acknowledge the righteous way in which David conducted himself.

In verse 17, Saul admitted to David “You have rewarded me _____, whereas I have rewarded you _____.”

***Sometimes you may need to extend forgiveness to someone who doesn’t deserve it.
It helps if you remember that it is God whom you are trying to please.
Someday you may need forgiveness from Him!***

Wordsearch with hidden message

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ACCUSED
ATTITUDE
FATHER
HEART
RENEW

ADMIT
DEBTS
FORGIVE
JESUS
TREATED

APOLOGY
EXAMPLE
FORGIVENESS
MATTHEW
WRONG

Use the remaining letters to solve the hidden message

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***Create in me a clean
heart, O God. Renew
a right spirit within me.***

