

Broken Together

The popular Christian band, Casting Crowns, recorded *Broken Together* last year. Band member Mark Hall co-wrote the song. He said:

We bring a lot of fairytales to the picture when it comes to marriage. . . . And then the problems hit and you don't know where to file those into your picture. . . . Only God is going to be able to make this work and broken people can be broken together.

FORGIVE
***We Still Do* series**

Here are the lyrics to this song about marriage:

What do you think about when you look at me
I know we're not the fairytale you dreamed we'd be
You wore the veil, you walked the aisle, you took my hand
And we dove into a mystery

How I wish we could go back to simpler times
Before all our scars and all our secrets were in the light
Now on this hallowed ground, we've drawn the battle lines
Will we make it through the night?

It's going to take much more than promises this time
Only God can change our minds

Maybe you and I were never meant to be complete
Could we just be broken together
If you can bring your shattered dreams and I'll bring mine
Could healing still be spoken and save us
The only way we'll last forever is broken together

How it must have been so lonely by my side
We were building kingdoms and chasing dreams and left love behind
I'm praying God will help our broken hearts align
And we won't give up the fight

I'm sorry. Will you forgive me? These words need to be as much a part of family life as "Pass the ketchup." Teach and explain this apology to your children, and expect them to use these words when they've wronged someone else, including you. When it is you, assure them, "I/we forgive you." Forgiveness has power, and our children need to know that all is right between them and Mom and Dad. And don't forget to use these words when *you* need to apologize to your kids!

Good Forgivers

A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers. Ruth Bell Graham, married to Billy Graham for 63 years until she passed away in 2007.

1. Do you think it's easier to forgive your spouse or someone else *outside* your marriage? Explain.
2. What does it mean to forgive your spouse? What does it *not* mean? Consider these verses:
 - Matthew 18:21-22—
 - Colossians 3:12-14—
 - 2 Corinthians 2:5-8—
 - Galatians 6:1-5—
3. Is there anything we should *not* forgive our husband or wife for? If so, what and under what circumstances could that happen?
4. What are some things your husband or wife has had to forgive you for? How has forgiving one another bettered your marriage?
5. How has your relationship been affected when you had a hard time forgiving one another? Share an example.
6. Is there anything you need to forgive your spouse for? Anything you need to ask your spouse's forgiveness for?

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13