



Lesson Nine

Jesus Says, “Ask God to Forgive You”

Heart Preparation

It comes naturally to us to focus on the wrongs we suffer instead of on the wrongs we commit. However, God wants his children to have tender hearts concerning our sinfulness, so that we will repent and ask for forgiveness through Jesus.

Even as the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and initially leads us to Jesus for forgiveness, so he continues to instruct us, guiding us to a more obedient life as we mature as God’s children. When we repent and confess our sins, God is quick to forgive. He loves us and wants us to grow in trust and obedience.

Spend some time this week examining your own heart and life. Ask God to reveal any sin, resentment, unforgiveness or disobedience. Confess these things to God, admitting that you are wrong, and then be assured of God’s character—that he is faithful and just and will forgive your sins. Allow God to first apply these lessons in your own life. This the best preparation for talking with your children about these things. Read Luke 11:4 and 15:11–24.

Pray that your children will recognize their own wrongdoing and their continuing need for forgiveness as they grow in God’s family. Pray that they will know that their loving heavenly Father does not stop loving his children when they sin: He leads them to be sorry and he promises to forgive; he listens when they confess and he welcomes them back with open arms.

Bible Background

The Parable of the Lost Son in Luke demonstrates God’s love to sinners in contrast with the Pharisees, who failed to understand God’s mercy and forgiveness. In this lesson, however, the story is used to illustrate a Christian’s sin and asking for forgiveness. The focus is on the father and the younger son, highlighting God’s compassion and joy at the repentance of sinners.



Bible Truth

God wants his children to continually turn away from sin and seek forgiveness through Jesus the Savior.

Scripture

Luke 11:4; 15:11–24



Lesson Focus

When we confess our sins, we can trust God to forgive us.

Goals for the Children

- Know that Jesus teaches that God forgives his sinful children.
- Learn 1 John 1:9a.
- Confess their sins and ask God for forgiveness.



Memory Minute

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins.

1 John 1:9a