

## I Can Forgive When I Am Forgiven (2/6/22)

**Main Verses:** Matthew 18:15-22

**Key Verse:** Matthew 18:21-22

**'Takeaway':** Just as we sin, others will sin against us. But just as Jesus did, we are called to forgive.

**Getting Started:** What do you do when someone hurts you?



**READ** the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What do you do when you see someone doing something he/she shouldn't do?
- When should you talk to another person about it?
- How do you know when someone is sorry for what they have done wrong?

Elementary:

- How do you respond when you see someone acting in a way he/she shouldn't?
- What is the difference between gossip and seeking help with a situation with another?
- How do you know when a person is truly sorry for the wrong he/she has done?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- Everyone sins. God wants us to help those who have gone astray.
- Jesus tells us how to respond when we see someone doing something he/she shouldn't (sinning).
- Just as God forgives us when we sin against him, we are to forgive others when they sin against us.

Elementary:

- We have a responsibility to handle conflicts or situations where we need to respond to someone sinning against us in a manner that honors God. If a situation can be handled in a way that will keep rumors and misunderstandings from multiplying, it should be handled that way.
- The goal in talking to someone or seeking help in talking to someone about what they're doing wrong is to restore them to a right relationship with God. The heavenly Shepherd's (God's) desire is for all his stray sheep to return to his fold.
- God forgives us when we sin when we truly repent of that sin, over and over again. Just as we are so forgiven, we too must forgive others.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for forgiving you when you sin against him. Thank him for sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that forgiveness is possible. Ask him to help you forgive other people when they sin against you.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for Jesus who died on the cross and rose again so that you can be forgiven for sinning against God. If you haven't surrendered your life to him, talk to him about that now. **Admit** you are a sinner, that you have led a me-centered life. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom and eternal life with God. **Commit** now to following his leadership from this time on. And because he forgives you freely, ask him to help you to forgive others who sin against you as freely.