



Aim: To help your child to forgive others who upset them

Note to the Parent: Have a crucifix handy



It is important for

your child to learn that Christians – the followers of Jesus, forgive others because God loves and forgives them too!



Parent: Welcome the child and other members of the family and gather them in a circle in the room.

- Invite the child and the family members to talk about:
- **What would you like to do if someone hurts you?**
- Allow each one to share without “correcting” each other!
- Sum up their reactions without making any judgments on them, right or wrong!

Parent, or another member of the family: Invite the members of the family to recall a “famous” time when Jesus forgave others.

- Allow freedom to suggest answers. Even competing suggestions.
- Now recall the words of Jesus on the Cross.
- They had nailed him to the Cross.
- Jesus had done nothing wrong. Still Jesus said:

✠ Show the Crucifix
Recall the words of Jesus:
“Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing!”

Parent: Invite the family to comment: **What do you think of that?**

- Now let’s listen to what St Peter asked Jesus one day, and Jesus’ answer. (See Matthew 18:21-22)

Parent and other members of the family: Tell the following story: (**P = Parent, M = Other Member of the family**)

- P. One day, Jesus was teaching about forgiving one another. St Peter asked Jesus:
M. “Lord, how many times must I forgive the offences of my brother? Seven times?”
P. Jesus answered: “No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Parent: Let’s recall this again:

- P. One day, Jesus was teaching about forgiving one another. St Peter asked Jesus:
M. “Lord, how many times must I forgive the offences of my brother? Seven times?”
P. Jesus answered: “No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Parent: Invite the family to discuss:

- ❖ **What do you think of that?**
- ❖ It may be difficult, but that is what Jesus asks his followers to do.
- ❖ Do I always forgive others? (Allow freedom to answer!)
- ❖ **All: (Regardless of the answer): The followers of Jesus always forgive others!**
- ❖ Do you always forgive others?
- ❖ **All: (Regardless of the answer): The followers of Jesus always forgive others!**
- ❖ Do we always forgive others?
- ❖ **All: (Regardless of the answer): The followers of Jesus always forgive others!**

Parent: Jesus asks us to pray about this; Let’s say the “Our Father” SLOWLY together.

- ❖ **Repeat the words** (3 times): **“and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”**
- ❖ Is it important for the followers of Jesus to forgive others?

Celebration:

Parent:

- ❖ Think of someone who has hurt us.
- ❖ Forgive that person in your heart, with a quiet prayer for them.

If possible some cool juice all round!