



God Calls Us to Forgive

Engage: Page 135

- ▶ **Say:** *Forgiveness happens when we make peace with someone whom we have hurt or who has hurt us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title, the poem title, and the poem. **Ask:** *What did Zacchaeus say to Jesus? ("I'm sorry! Forgive me, please!")*
- ▶ Make up motions and gestures to go along with the poem, and read it aloud again. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ **Say:** *Zacchaeus took money that did not belong to him. He made bad choices that hurt people.* **Ask:** *How do you think he felt about what he had done? (He felt bad. He felt sorry.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 136. **Say:** *Sometimes we make bad choices. Sometimes we do and say things that hurt God, ourselves, or others. God wants us to make good choices and help others.* Read aloud the directions and discuss each situation. Then assist your child in completing the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *Jesus knows what is in our hearts. He forgives us when we are sorry for our sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 137. Have your child point to the words *forgiveness* and *peace*. Help him or her find the words in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. **Ask:** *How do the characters in the cartoon feel? (Answers will vary.)* **Say:** *When you make a bad choice, you hurt others and you feel sad. Asking for forgiveness gives us peace.* Have your child complete the picture to show peace and happiness on the boy's face.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that the Lord's Prayer teaches us about forgiveness.



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 23 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of two people hugging each other.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the people's faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants us to forgive one another. A hug can be a sign of love, forgiveness, or thanks.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 23. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section God Forgives Us. **Say:** *Jesus knew that God's love is greater than any sin. That is why Jesus said we should forgive people who hurt us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Peaceful Hearts and invite your child to complete the activity. **Ask:** *How can your picture show that the heart is put back together and someone is forgiven?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Role-play simple scenarios with your child where one person says "I'm sorry" and the other person forgives him or her. Examples of situations could include cutting in line, arguing over a toy, and taking something that is not yours. **Ask:** *What can we say that will help us forgive each other and bring peace to our hearts?* ("I'm sorry." "Please forgive me.")

Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is ending his day with a prayer. He can share with God the best parts of his day, and with God's help, he can promise to try harder tomorrow.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences. Explain that the Examen gives us steps to think about what we did during the day and the choices we made. Then read aloud each line of the Daily Examen. Give your child time to reflect after each sentence. Together pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 139. **Say:** *Let's go through these questions again to help us avoid sin.* Then have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 140

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *forgiveness* and *peace*. **Say:** *We have talked about asking for forgiveness and forgiving others. When we receive forgiveness, we feel at peace.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear God, thank you for your love and forgiveness. Help me remember to make good choices.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.