

September 15, 2024- Bless This Home- Cultivating Peace In Our Homes

1. "Peace Garden" Challenge: Encourage families to plant a small "peace garden" together. Each plant represents a peacemaking skill they want to cultivate (e.g. forgiveness, active listening, patience). As they tend the garden, they discuss how they're growing in peacemaking.
2. "Conflict Resolution Toolbox": Have families create an actual toolbox filled with items symbolizing peacemaking tools (e.g. a small mirror for self-reflection, earplugs for listening better, a stress ball for patience). They can use this during conflicts.
3. "Peace Detective": Challenge kids to be "peace detectives" for a week, looking for examples of peacemaking in their daily lives and reporting back to the family. This cultivates awareness of positive conflict resolution.
4. "Forgiveness Stones": Have family members write hurts or grudges on stones, then ceremonially toss them into water (like a lake or stream) as a physical act of letting go and forgiving.
5. "Peacemaker of the Week": Implement a family tradition of recognizing a "Peacemaker of the Week" who demonstrated exceptional conflict resolution skills. This positively reinforces peacemaking behaviors.
6. "Conflict Time Capsule": When a conflict arises, write it down and put it in a time capsule. Open it in a month to see if it still seems as important, teaching perspective on conflicts.
7. "Peace Playlist": Create a family playlist of songs about peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Play it during tense moments to remind everyone of their peacemaking goals.

These ideas aim to make the concepts of peacemaking and forgiveness more tangible and actionable for families, in line with the practical focus of the sermon.