

# Forgive One Another

By Paige Evers

Parents and other significant adults can help children experience the love and forgiveness of God by loving and forgiving one another. This activity encourages adults and children to talk about tough times when family members mess up and hurt each other. Through building and taking down a wall made from blocks, this activity also gives children an opportunity to practice saying “I’m sorry” and “I forgive you.”

## For

Young Family

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Forgiveness Activity Sheet, Building Blocks (10-12 blocks)



## Activity Plan

1. Share with your child that this activity is about forgiveness. Ask her if she knows what it means to forgive someone. Tell her you’re going to hear God’s word from the Bible and learn about forgiveness.

2. Say this prayer aloud.

*Dear God, sometimes we have a hard time and don’t do the right thing. Thank you for loving and forgiving us when we make mistakes. As we hear from your word, teach us how to love and forgive one another. Amen.*

3. Read this verse from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (4:32, NIV).

In the Bible, we learn that God wants us to be kind and caring toward one another. Tell your child you’re going to use blocks to learn what “forgiveness” means.

4. Position the “Forgiveness Activity” sheet and the blocks between you and your child. Explain that sometimes we do things that we aren’t supposed to do. We hurt each other’s feelings. We create problems for our friends or family members. We mess up in little ways or big ways.
5. Show your child the blocks. Tell him that you’re going to stack the blocks on the squares on the Forgiveness Activity sheet. Each square talks about something we do that could hurt someone. Point out each square. Have your child place a block on it after you explain what that square means. You can also give an example.
6. Once you have several blocks stacked to create a wall, point out how the mean words and unkind acts put up a barrier between you and your child. That’s what happens when we don’t act in a caring way toward one another.
7. Repeat the verse from Ephesians:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”



8. Tell your child the good news that the wall doesn't have to stay there. Because Jesus died on the cross for us, God forgives us every time we mess up. God loves us and wants to be close to us. Knowing that God loves and forgives us helps us love and forgive one another.
9. Spend a few minutes practicing how to forgive each other. Share with your child the simple phrase, "I'm sorry for \_\_\_\_\_" and the response, "I forgive you." Have your child start removing blocks with you as you practice. The adult can say what is on the activity sheet, for example, "[Child's name] I'm sorry for yelling." Then the child can practice saying, "I forgive you." Switch roles. Have your child say, "I'm sorry for \_\_\_\_\_" and then the adult can respond, "I forgive you."
10. Continue practicing apologizing and offering forgiveness until all of the blocks are off the paper.
11. Share the verse one more time:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Tell your child how happy you are that you practiced being kind and caring for one another. Remind your child how unkind actions build a wall between people. Forgiving each other takes the wall down. Now that there is no wall between you, give your child a big hug. Tell her that God loves her and you love her.

12. Finish with a prayer.

*Dear God, thank you for loving and forgiving us. Help us take apart any walls we've built by our mean words or unkind actions. Help us forgive and love each other. Show us how we can grow closer to one another and to you. Amen.*



## Forgiveness Activity

**Saying mean words**

**Not sharing toys**

**Yelling at someone**

**Taking something  
that belongs to  
someone else**

**Not listening to  
an adult**

**Not helping  
my family**

