

A Big Mistake

By Amber Espinosa

It's part of being human to make mistakes. As much as we want to do the right thing, we just can't be perfect all the time. We often end up doing things that hurt others, and things that make us feel bad. If you've made a big mistake, these activities can help!

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring



Activity Plan

1. The apostle Paul, one of the most important people in the whole Bible wrote, "But I do not do the thing I want, but the very thing I do not want!" Romans 7:19.

The story of the Bible tells us that God loves us no matter how many mistakes we make. God comes to be with us even in the worst of our mistakes. Jesus uses a story to tell us what God's love is like.

Read the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 (see last page), and talk about it with a grown-up.

- What big mistakes does the son make?
 - What would you expect the father to feel? To do?
 - What does the father do instead?
 - What does this story tell us about God's love?
2. We know that God loves us no matter what we do. Here are some ideas that can help us remember God's love for us, help us feel better when we've made a mistake, and help us mend relationships that we've hurt.

Confess

Throughout the history of the church, people have used the practice of confession and absolution to remind themselves of God's love. Try this prayer of confession, and hear the words of God's forgiveness.

Dear God, I'm sorry for _____. Please forgive me, and help me to be the kind of person you made me to be.

Apologize

When we make a mistake, we often hurt the people we love the most. In an apology of action, we show the person we love that we are sorry, and we do something that could help us mend our relationship. And, an apology of action can help us feel better too! Here are some examples of an apology of action...

- If you broke something, fix it.
- If you made a mess, clean it up.
- If you took something, give it back.
- If you left someone out, do something special with them.
- If you said something hurtful, say something kind.

Put it in Perspective

Sometimes we forget that everyone makes mistakes. When we make a mistake that's embarrassing, it can help to remember that we all do things that are embarrassing! Watch these Disney bloopers and see if they help you laugh at your own mistakes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWclgyyIfUs>



Luke 15:11-32

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

