

FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 3
K - 5TH GRADE

Read Colossians 3:13

DAY 1



When a friend messes up, like they don't let you have the ball, or say something mean without thinking, what do you do? Do you get mad? When they apologize, do you STAY mad? When a friend hurts you and then says, "I'm really sorry," do you refuse to listen and hold a grudge or do you say, "it's okay" but not really mean it?

One part of friendship is learning to forgive. Why? Because your friends aren't perfect. Neither are you. They will mess up. No matter what, forgiveness is always the best choice. Because you have been forgiven too. So if you are holding something against someone, choose forgiveness. Friends forgive one another.

In the verse below, the following letters are missing! Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:

F O R G I V E

"Put up w _ th _ n _ an _ th _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ n _ an _ th _ _ i _ y _ u a _ _ h _ ld _ ng
s _ m _ th _ n _ a _ a _ nst s _ m _ _ _ n _ . _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ just as th _ L _ _ _ d _ _ _ _ _ a _ e y _ u ."

C _ l _ ss _ ans 3:13

Thank God for forgiving you so that you can forgive your friends.

Read Ephesians 4:32

DAY 2

One big way to be a good friend is to offer forgiveness when a friend messes up. But when it comes to forgiveness, you have to use your words AND your actions.

To forgive means you to have say it AND show it. So let's try a little pop quiz to get you thinking about how to do that. Don't worry, it's not for a grade

A friend borrows your ball without asking and kicks it over the fence into a neighbor's yard. He apologizes and rings the doorbell to get the ball back, but the neighbor is out of town till next week. That means a whole week with NO ball! To show forgiveness . . .

What can you say: _____

What can you do: _____

Friendship is about forgiveness. You can't be kind and loving as this verse commands without forgiving when someone messes up. You can be a good friend by saying it with your words and showing it with your actions.

Ask God to help you say and show forgiveness when it's needed.

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Read Matthew 6:14

DAY 3

Here's something that's kind of hard to understand. When you refuse to forgive, God takes it personally. Why? Because He's done a LOT to make sure you know you're forgiven. How? By sending Jesus.

Jesus came, lived a perfect life and then died on the cross. Not because He deserved it, but because WE did. He paid the price for our sin, for ALL sin, by suffering for us. And the best part, three days later, He ROSE again to fix that broken relationship once and for all.

So when you refuse to forgive your brother for stepping on your new Lego creation, or hold a grudge against the kid who didn't pick you for his team, it's like you're completely forgetting what God has done for you. You are forgiven. No matter what you do.

And because you're forgiven, God is asking you to forgive others too. Not because it's easy or convenient. Not even because you *want* to. But because YOU ARE FORGIVEN. And forgiven people should be forgiving people.

Look for opportunities to forgive as you've been forgiven.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

DAY 4

Did you catch the part at the end that says, love "keeps no record of wrongs"? What does that really mean anyway?

It's like keeping a mental list of everything someone does that upsets you. Keeping a "record of wrongs" can be exhausting. And it's not really fair because YOU mess up too. In fact, you mess up enough to fill up a list of your own. A good friend ditches that mess up list and chooses to forgive and move on.

It's time to create our third backpack tag. Cut out the tag on the right, decorate it and cover it with tape on both sides. Punch a hole in the top, run ribbon or yarn through the hole and then loop it through your zipper on your backpack.

Know that God has called you to be a good friend and forgive each other.

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