

Making Good Choices

Teaching Young People
Right from Wrong

Lessons for Teachers
and Parents

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New Way To Go

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Introduction

We are made in God's image and likeness. As Children of God, we all have innate goodness. Jesus called children "the greatest in the Kingdom of God." We don't always fulfil our goodness and need guidance to see that what we said or did was wrong. Forgiveness lies at the heart of Christian faith and it is therefore important that children are helped to understand that God forgives us when we are sorry.

As a teacher/ parent you can support children on this journey by -

- ❖ being consistent in distinguishing between deliberate or accidental actions
- ❖ emphasising the importance of telling the truth at all times
- ❖ helping children to understand WHY the action is wrong
- ❖ showing children that you do forgive them and encouraging them to forgive others
- ❖ encouraging children to say sorry, accept forgiveness – and move on

As significant adults in the lives of children, what you say and do are important. Children will be influenced by your example.



Lesson 6

The Loving Father and the Two Sons

Time scale: 30 minutes

Main teaching points:

In the story of the Prodigal Son from the New Testament we learn that God calls us to forgive and to be forgiven in our own life (*Luke 15: 11-38-10*).

When people make selfish choices or show a lack of love in what they say or do, God communicates his healing love and forgiveness.

Jesus taught his followers through the stories he told. These stories are called **parables**.

Read the story of The Prodigal Son to the children *Luke 15:11-24* (*Everyday Children's Bible* page 249.)

Discuss the meaning of the word 'Prodigal.' (Wasteful)



- ❖ What do you think the son's life at home was like before he left with his money?
- ❖ What do you think he bought with the money?
- ❖ How the Prodigal Son feel when he had wasted all the money.
- ❖ How did the Father feel when the Son left home?
- ❖ What did the son say to his father when he returned home?
- ❖ What were the feelings in the Father's heart when he saw his lost Son returning?
- ❖ In what way is the father in the story like God our Father?
- ❖ Explore together why it is important to say sorry to each other.
- ❖ How does it feel to be forgiven?

(Lead the children to have some understanding about the need to say "sorry" and the joy of being forgiven.)

How do the children think God the Father responds when we say sorry and ask for His forgiveness?

Children now complete Activity 6