



WEEK THREE

MATTHEW 9:9-12

Jesus tells Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, and he does.



REMEMBER THIS:

"Come and follow me," Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIrV



SAY THIS:

Who can you follow? I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.



DO THIS:



Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, Jesus is SO good at loving people. He says kind words, helps people, forgives people, prays for people, and is just the best friend ever. Help us to love people the way Jesus loves us. We want the world to know we follow Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

BASIC TRUTH:

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



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STORIES THAT TEACH FORGIVENESS

By Dan Scott

Forgiveness can be hard.

We all have this tendency to hold our hurt and carry it around like a weight in a backpack. We just keep piling in those hurts, until we bend and break beneath the weight of our bitterness. Even as adults, this is something we're prone to do. No matter how we try, forgiveness doesn't seem to be our natural instinct.

Imagine how difficult it must be for our kids. They're just learning to grapple with the emotions associated with hurt. Friends can be fickle. Hurt people hurt people. And our kids are left aching from the hurt yet unable to process what they're feeling and find the path towards forgiveness.

As parents, we try and help them see how forgiveness will free them from the additional hurt that comes. But kids are often too close to the situation to see any other option than letting the bitterness sink in making way for revenge to take over. And so, our words fail us and we need some help.

Thankfully, we have stories. Stories over time give us a perspective on life we can't see on our own. Forgiveness

is one of those areas where stories can offer a perspective for you and your kids to discover a pathway out of the pain to find a place where you can let go of that bitterness backpack you've been carrying around.

Here are several ideas for where to start with stories that teach the idea of forgiveness for preschool and lower elementary kids, check these books out:

- I Love My New Toy!* - Mo Willems
- No, David!* - David Shannon
- We All Need Forgiveness* - Mercer Mayer
- Will You Forgive Me?* - Sally Grindley and Penn Dan
- The Berenstain Bears and the Forgiving Tree* - Jan and Mike Berenstain
- The Forgiveness Garden* - Lauren Thompson and Christy Hale
- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* - Kevin Henkes
- I Am Extremely Absolutely Boiling* - Luren Child (Charlie and Lola Book)
- Enemy Pie* - Derek Munson



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