

Brick Activity: Forgiveness

THE HEAVINESS OF AN UNFORGIVING ATTITUDE

The concept of forgiveness can be difficult for kids to understand. We must teach them that it takes leaning into God's strength to forgive others, even when it's hard. If we don't forgive others, we will feel weighed down by our unforgiving attitude — and that's not a fun way to live!

This activity and guided conversation will help your child visually (and physically!) understand the weight of not forgiving others. Walk them through the conversation, then talk about scenarios of when they might need to forgive others, even if others don't say they're sorry. Explain to them that God forgives us over and over again, and He asks us to let our forgiveness flow freely to others as well.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 brick



Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Matthew 18:21-22

INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDED CONVERSATION:

Hand your child a brick and have them hold it with both hands.

Say, *“The Bible tells us that we all sin and make bad choices and do not follow God’s rules sometimes. Fortunately for us, God is merciful, forgiving, and loving. God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven by God and be with Him in Heaven when we die.”*

Say, *“Let’s pretend that last week your friend said something that made you really angry and you are still upset with him. You have a right to be angry with him, right? His words were hurtful! You probably don’t feel like forgiving him, especially since he didn’t say he’s sorry.”*

Say, *“I guess you’re wondering why you’re holding that brick? That brick represents your unforgiving attitude! You’ve been holding it for a while now and I bet your fingers are starting to hurt! I guess holding on to anger probably isn’t the best idea after all. It can be hard to forgive someone else sometimes, can’t it?”* Let your child respond.

Say, *“Sometimes we might even have a good reason to be angry or upset, but in the end, holding on to our unforgiving attitude only hurts us and weighs us down.”*

Say, *“Are you ready to forgive your friend now?”* Help your child put the brick down.

Say, *“Wow, what a relief! I bet you feel so much lighter, don’t you? Remember the feeling of holding that brick the next time you have the opportunity to forgive someone. Ask God to help you forgive and lighten your heart.”*