

The Parable of the Older Brother



Journal Activity

1. The father did not wait for his son to say he was sorry before he forgave him. Do you need a person to express their sorrow before you forgive? Explain.
2. What does it mean to forgive and forget? Is it really possible to forgive someone and then forget what they did to you?
3. What do you find harder, forgiving another or asking for forgiveness? Explain.

Ask Yourself

1.

Have I ever hurt somebody and then been able to heal that hurt?

2.

Has anybody hurt me and then healed my hurt? Was the healing complete?

3.

Have I ever said "I'm sorry" when I wasn't?

4.

When someone wanted to make up with me, have I ever said "It's okay" when it wasn't?

5.

Do I hate to admit it when I'm in the wrong? If so, why?

6.

When someone has hurt me, feels bad about it, and wants to make up, do I enjoy making that person wait?

7.

When I injure someone and no one gets back at me, do I feel triumphant and say to myself, "I got away with it"? Do I avoid that person? Do I fear punishment someday? How do I feel toward a person I have hurt?

Forgiveness reminds me of
(check one or more):

- ☐ saying I'm sorry.
- ☐ punishment.
- ☐ getting close again.
- ☐ a fresh start.
- ☐ embarrassment.
- ☐ _____

- ☐ being "nice."
- ☐ lying.
- ☐ feeling in the wrong.
- ☐ confession.
- ☐ giving in.
- ☐ _____

My Mom or Dad makes up by
(check one or more):

- ☐ a private talk.
- ☐ saying that he (she) is wrong.
- ☐ bringing home flowers.
- ☐ cooking something special.
- ☐ a gift.
- ☐ crying.
- ☐ being very quiet for a while.
- ☐ saying nothing.
- ☐ kissing.
- ☐ doing nothing.
- ☐ _____

When I make up with someone after a fight or a misunderstanding, I like to:
