

## MERCY

### DAY 10

**Note to Parents:** The procedure for asking and giving forgiveness taught in this lesson may be new to you. It may not be the only way forgiveness can be handled, but it is a way that many have found helpful. If you wish to have your children use this method, be diligent to practice it consistently with them as real-life situations arise, until it has become habit.

- I. Memorize Jeremiah 31:34c and Ezekiel 33:16a.
- II. “Did you know there are right ways and wrong ways to ask and to give forgiveness?”
  - A. “What would be a wrong attitude to have when asking forgiveness?” (making excuses to justify why the wrong act was committed; asking not because of sorrow, but because of getting caught)
  - B. “What would be a wrong attitude if we are supposed to be forgiving someone?” (being grudging about it; saying things like, “All right, I forgive you, but don’t ever let it happen again!”)
  - C. “One common way people try to ask and give forgiveness sounds like this:  
1st person: ‘I’m sorry.’  
2nd person: ‘That’s O.K.’”
  - D. “‘I’m sorry’ doesn’t say enough. We can be sorry, but not repentant. ‘That’s O.K.’ is not telling the truth. It is never O.K. to hurt others’ feelings. We didn’t feel O.K. about it when the offense was done to us.”
  - E. “There is a better way, a more healing way, to ask and give forgiveness:  
1st person: ‘I’m sorry for \_\_\_\_\_.’ (Name the sin.) ‘Please forgive me.’ (or simply, ‘Please forgive me for \_\_\_\_\_.’)  
2nd person: ‘I forgive you.’”
  - F. “In this second scenario, the offending person has been forgiven. Both people are acknowledging that wrong was done, but it is now healed.”
  - G. “This is the best way to forgive, but not everyone knows about it. If someone outside of our family offends you and doesn’t ask forgiveness in quite the same way we do, you don’t need to make a big deal out of it. Simply say, ‘I forgive you.’ If you ask somebody to forgive you, and he says, ‘That’s O.K.’, you can let it go at that and understand that the person means you are forgiven.”
- III. Practice asking and giving forgiveness several times through role play, if you desire.
- IV. Thank God for showing us how to forgive each other.