

# Everyday Values For Sunday School Children: Forgiveness



In today's fast-paced and often self-centered world, teaching children about forgiveness has become more important than ever. Sunday school presents a unique opportunity to instill in children the values that will shape their character and actions in life. Forgiveness is a crucial value that helps children develop

empathy, compassion, and understanding towards others. In this article, we will explore the significance of forgiveness and provide practical tips on how to teach this value effectively in Sunday school.

## The Power of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a concept that holds immense power. It allows individuals to let go of negative emotions, heal wounds, and restore relationships. For Sunday school children, forgiveness offers the chance to understand the importance of empathy, humility, and compassion. Teaching the power of forgiveness helps children learn to give others second chances, adopt a non-judgmental attitude, and work towards peaceful resolutions.



### Everyday Values for Sunday School Children:

#### **FORGIVENESS** by Irene McGarvie(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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## Understanding Forgiveness

Before teaching forgiveness to children, it is crucial to ensure they have a clear understanding of its meaning. Simplifying the concept, forgiveness can be explained as letting go of anger or resentment towards someone who has hurt them. Encourage children to share their personal experiences or instances where

they felt the need to forgive. This will create a safe environment for open discussions and help them relate forgiveness to their lives.

## **The Role of Empathy**

Forgiveness and empathy go hand in hand. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Teaching children empathy will help them see situations from different perspectives, fostering forgiveness in their hearts. Discuss scenarios where children have been hurt or have witnessed others hurting. Encourage them to reflect on how it must have felt for the person involved. This activity will cultivate their ability to empathize and eventually forgive.

## **Leading by Example**

Children learn by observing the actions and behaviors of adults. To effectively teach forgiveness, it is essential for Sunday school teachers and parents to serve as role models. Show forgiveness in your own life and openly discuss its positive impact. Share personal stories where you have forgiven someone and how it improved your relationships and overall well-being. By witnessing forgiveness in action, children will be more inclined to adopt this value.

## **Teaching Through Stories and Scriptures**

Storytelling is a powerful tool for engaging children's imagination and conveying important values. Select age-appropriate stories that demonstrate forgiveness in action. Stories with relatable characters and relatable contexts will capture children's attention and make forgiveness more tangible. Likewise, incorporating relevant scriptures and passages can provide a spiritual foundation for understanding forgiveness and its significance in Christianity.

## **Practicing Forgiveness Exercises**

Engaging children in forgiveness exercises can help them develop practical skills in forgiving others. Encourage them to maintain forgiveness journals where they can write about instances where they forgave or were forgiven. Additionally, organize forgiveness role-plays where children can act out forgiveness scenarios, giving them a chance to practice empathy, communication, and conflict resolution skills. These exercises will empower children to apply forgiveness in their daily lives.

## **Encouraging Forgiveness at Home**

Reinforcing the value of forgiveness should extend beyond Sunday school hours. Encourage children to practice forgiveness at home by involving their families. Suggest activities like forgiveness cards, where children can write poems or draw pictures to express forgiveness towards family members or friends who may have hurt them. By integrating forgiveness into their daily lives, children will strengthen their understanding and application of this value.

## **Celebrating Forgiveness**

To emphasize the significance of forgiveness, celebrate its practice within the Sunday school community. Organize forgiveness-themed events like forgiveness picnics or forgiveness awards where children can share stories of forgiveness. Encourage them to recognize and appreciate each other's efforts in forgiving and being forgiven. By celebrating forgiveness, children will develop a positive association with this value, making it a lifelong lesson.

Forgiveness is a value that children need to grasp early in life. By instilling forgiveness in Sunday school children, we equip them with a powerful tool for building harmonious relationships, resolving conflicts, and leading fulfilling lives. From teaching empathy to practicing forgiveness exercises, every effort counts in helping children understand and embrace this everyday value. Through

forgiveness, we can create a generation of compassionate and forgiving individuals who will make a positive impact on the world.

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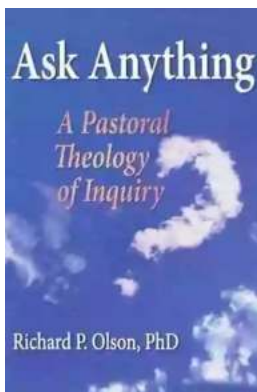
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Mamavi vowed not to forgive her classmate who accused her falsely. At Sunday school, the Parable of the prodigal Son was read and discussed. She spoke to her Sunday school teacher who taught her how to forgive. She later reconciled with her classmate.



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