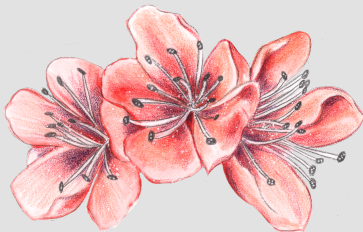


FAMILY CHAT

a monthly newsletter for parents at Christ Church

DOWNLOAD OF THE MONTH



Bible verses on cards

Print them out

Colour them in

Stick around your house

Try and learn one with your family

<https://static.crossway.org/excerpt/esv-bible-verse-cards-for-covid-19.pdf>

#linkofthemonth
BLOG POST:
CONNECT DEEPLY
WITH YOUR KIDS



A quick read with some good counsel and practical tips on connecting with your kids!

https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/date-your-kids?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=dd69e76c-2d63-4d16-840c-84dbf3b92a38&utm_content=article&utm_campaign=new+teaching

Two lessons to show Jesus to our families from two weeks ago.

It's a Friday morning. It's a special day. I've got a day off, and so we're going for a walk... but not just any walk... We're going in the car, to *drive* somewhere, for our daily walk! It'll be the first time in ages that we're doing something different from our usual meander through our local park. Like I said... it was special. The drive is a 15 minute drive. 12 minutes in, Roo asks "do we have the baby carrier?" The answer to this was "no."

Lesson one: **Model forgiveness.**

12 minutes back to the house. And 12 minutes back to where we were before. Now we were able to transport our baby on the walk, but I was significantly more grumpy than I was 24 minutes ago!

I was 70% sure that it was Roo's fault... Was it? Well if it was, modelling forgiveness would not be to sit in silence for the next 24 minutes, and rev the car louder!

Lesson two: **Model repentance.**

But perhaps it *was* my fault... *had* Roo asked me to pick it up on the way out? I know that I'm not perfect... The life of lockdown helps me see this especially! So why would I pretend I am? In fact... this is why Jesus came in the first place. He came "to save sinners." I naturally don't like saying "sorry" to her... but I know that I should be doing it pretty regularly for the things I do wrong against her!

Bring stuck in one house with the same people for two months is tough. There will *certainly* be opportunities to forgive and seek forgiveness with our families. And therefore, as parents, this is a chance to show our families what we believe about ourselves, and about the world and about the gospel: that forgiveness is deeply important! Let us try and model this to them!

But here's the good news... I truly don't say this to make you feel guilty as a parent. This is not "one more thing that you're not doing, but you should be doing!" Because *this is the gospel message*: that we are naturally rubbish at this! Jesus died for us *because* we don't act perfectly at every moment in life. The life of someone following Jesus is a life of regular repentance, asking for forgiveness, and re-orienting our lives towards Him again.

If we make saying sorry a regular topic of conversation in our families, perhaps this will help our children understand a little better why Jesus died for us.

Here's my parting challenge: when did you last say sorry to your children or to your spouse? Do you need to?

With love and prayers

Tom