

Practice a fresh start

Start any week / About 20-30 minutes together / Adapt to your household

Read together: Luke 15:11-32

Jesus tells a story about a father who welcomes his returning son. Mercy opens a way to begin again. In family life, a sincere apology names what happened and makes room for repair. Forgiveness does not require a child to accept unsafe behavior, forced affection or contact with someone who has harmed them. Adults should listen and protect.

Talk together

What makes an apology feel sincere?

How is repairing something different from making an excuse?

What can we do when we need help making things right?

Make or do: An apology and repair practice

You will need: Blocks, toys or a made-up story; no one needs to share a real argument.

1. Invent a small mistake, such as accidentally knocking down a toy tower. Keep the example light and fictional.
2. Practice three sentences: I did...; I am sorry because...; I can help repair this by... .
3. Switch roles. Let the other person ask for space or suggest a reasonable repair. No one has to offer a hug.

Read the Bible passage at bible.usccb.org. Scripture text is not reproduced. Sharing aloud is always optional.

A thought, sketch or idea from our activity

Our week of small beginnings

Dates: _____ / Choose the pace that fits your family.

- ☐ **Day 1: Read the story of the returning son.**
- ☐ **Day 2: Notice someone giving a fresh start.**
- ☐ **Day 3: Try the fictional apology activity.**
- ☐ **Day 4: Practice listening without an excuse.**
- ☐ **Day 5: Repair one small thing you can repair.**
- ☐ **Day 6: Pray for patience in your family.**
- ☐ **Day 7: Name one habit worth keeping.**

Make room for different ages

Ages 4-7: Use toys to act out the story. Model a short apology and helping to rebuild.

Ages 8-12 and older: Discuss the difference between explaining a mistake and avoiding responsibility for it.

Put love into practice

Repair a shared space or replace something you used up. Ask before fixing someone else's belongings.

Pray together

Merciful Father, help us speak honestly, receive your forgiveness and repair the harm we cause. Teach us to begin again with care. Amen.

A moment we want to remember
