

CROSSROADS KIDS

CURRENT SERIES

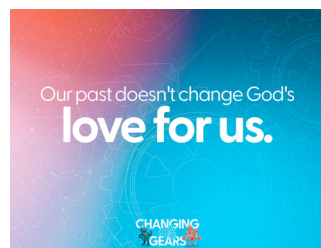
Memory Verse:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Series Overview:

In this four-week series from Jesus' ministry on earth, you'll introduce kids to a different story each week that shows us how God's truths never change, but Jesus changes everything — including us!



A PRAYER FOR PLAYING TOGETHER

Spirit, ignite in us the gift of creativity. Let us enter into the mess-making, for in the markers and paints and paper scraps, we experience you in new ways.

Spirit, spark in us the gift of adventure. Let us enter into the exploration of new kingdoms, for in the slaying of dragons and the meeting of fairies, we see your wonder.

Spirit, breathe in us the gift of imagination. Let us enter into the building of sacred spaces, for in the blanket forts and secret passages, we feel your shelter.

Spirit, illuminate in us the gift of expression. Let us enter into the song and dance of our youth, for in the symphonies of childhood, we hear you glory.

In your wonder, in your shelter, in your glory, O God, help us to prioritize the good gifts of creativity, adventure, imagination and expression.

As we play with our children, be present with us, O God. As we make memories and forge bonds with our sons and daughters, who won't be young forever, we thank you for the deep joy of replacing grown-up schedules with the simple magic of childhood.

Amen.

PARENT RESOURCE

This book can be used in any number of ways: work through it as part of your daily quiet time, or pick it up whenever a particular need arises. Either way, it's worth stepping out of the busyness of daily life for five minutes to pray meaningfully for your child, grandchild, godchild, or kids in your church from tots to teens, and every age in between



Apprenticeship at Home

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

Yes, this one is for us as adults. We spend a lot of time trying to make sure our kids understand the importance of apologizing when they hurt someone, but this can be a tough pill to swallow when we are the ones who've messed up. If you want to build a bond with a kid where they see you as a real person who really does mess up, but is always seeking to do better, you can start by acknowledging your faults and simply saying you're sorry. You don't need to make excuses for yourself or make a big show out of the apology, just let your kid know that you value them enough to own up to it when you've messed up!

This week, make it a priority to apologize for anything you know you've messed up. And if you can't think of anything, don't be scared to ask your kid if there's anything they wish you'd apologize for. Now, let's say your kid is the one who messed up — maybe they broke a rule or they might've hurt themselves or somebody else. Your teaching moment doesn't end with the consequences. Consequences may teach kids to fear making the wrong choice, but processing their decisions with someone who loves them can teach kids the skills to decide between right and wrong. Ask them questions like . . .

- Why do you think you are in trouble?
- What could you have done differently?
- If you didn't get caught, what might have happened? Could someone have gotten hurt?

Each situation will involve different lines of questioning, but by choosing to engage a kid's mind you can help them to be more critical in their future thinking and more trusting that you are on their side!