



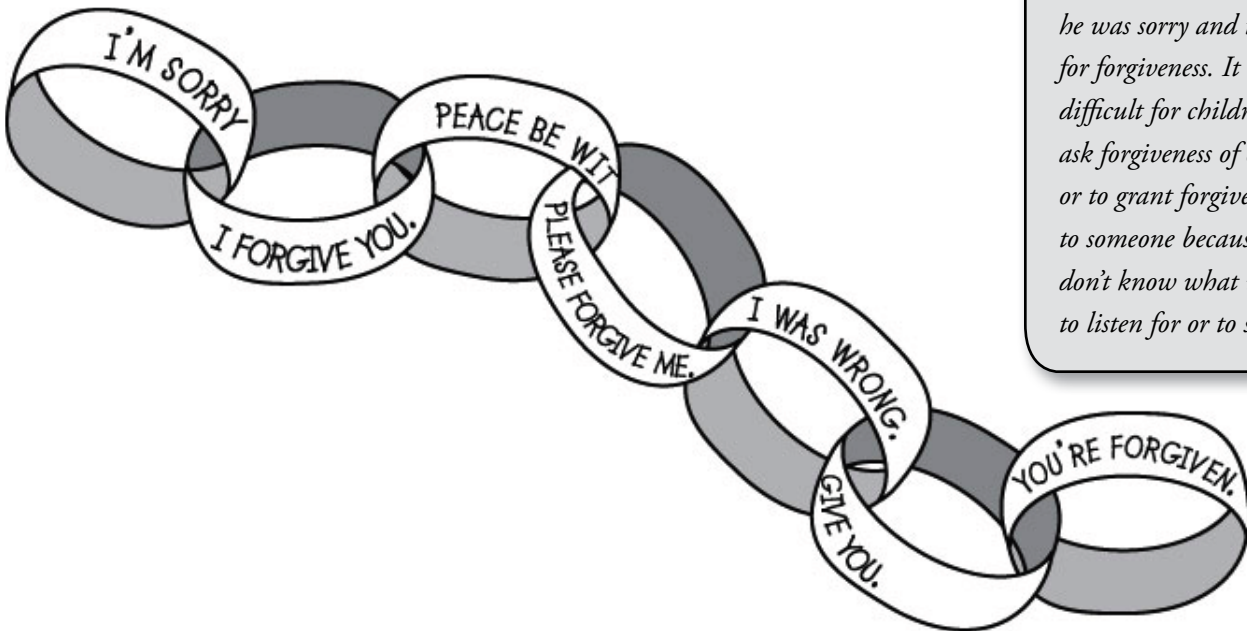
Forgiveness Chain

Materials:

Strips of paper, 10 to 20 for each child	Pens, pencils, or crayons
Tape	

FAITH CONNECTION

In the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son, the young man who wanted to return home needed words to tell his father he was sorry and to ask for forgiveness. It is often difficult for children to ask forgiveness of others or to grant forgiveness to someone because they don't know what words to listen for or to say.



Directions:

1. Discuss with the children what words they can use to ask or give forgiveness. Phrases like the following can be useful to children.

I'm sorry.	Peace be with you.
Please forgive me.	You're forgiven.
I forgive you.	I was wrong.
2. To help the children remember these words and phrases, show them how to make forgiveness chains. Have the children write a forgiveness phrase on individual paper strips and decorate the strips. Repeat the process with other phrases and strips. Then have the children tape their links together.
3. The completed chain is a reminder that we are to ask forgiveness of people we have hurt by our words or our actions. We must also forgive those who have hurt us. Link all the forgiveness chains together.