

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter describes the need to seek God's mercy and to ask for and offer forgiveness. It also focuses on Jesus' teachings to love others, especially our enemies.

God's Word



Read **Luke 6:27-31** and think about ways you can show your love for each family member.

Catholics Believe

- Jesus' New Commandment is to love one another as he loves each of us.
- The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1933, 1716 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Peter Canisius who urged us to always speak kindly to those with whom we disagree. He is credited with adding the sentence beginning, "Holy Mary, Mother of God" to the Hail Mary.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the New Commandment Loving God above all things and loving others as God loves us may sound simple to a child this age—until it comes to practical applications. We are often tested in these commands by the things we get most excited about or the people we are with every day. Your child will need many reminders of how he or she can apply these principles in daily life choices. For example, he or she might choose to go to church rather than staying home to play a video game or make a choice to not fight with a friend or sibling.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How difficult is it to show kindness to someone who has harmed you?

Forgiveness may be the greatest challenge in our spiritual journey. It is sometimes difficult to imagine how people can let go of the resentment and bitterness they feel when they are wronged. Yet, "the best way to obtain mercy is to be merciful. As Jesus taught us, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy' (Mt 5, 7). Failure to forgive others is a major human problem. Holding grudges is common. Failure to forgive routinely tears apart families, neighborhoods, and even nations. Jesus stressed mercy and forgiveness in numerous ways" (*USCCA, p. 488*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Talk about a time when you've found it difficult to forgive. What did that experience teach you?
- Ask your child to name some times when he or she has asked forgiveness from someone else. How did it feel to receive that forgiveness?

LET'S PRAY >>>



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.