

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains God's mercy and how important it is to show we are sorry and ask for the forgiveness of God and others.

God's Word



Read **Matthew 18:21–22** to find out how many times Jesus wants us to forgive someone.

Catholics Believe

- God is merciful and forgiving.
- God will always forgive you if you are truly sorry.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1428, 1439 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, a wife and mother who prayed to God to help her to forgive.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God's Mercy God loves us no matter what. A child's understanding of this will be influenced by his or her experience with love and forgiveness from significant adults. It's important that we not overreact to accidents (which are not the same as bad choices unless a bad choice led to the accident). It's also important that when children this age make a purposeful wrong choice, they be given a way to help repair the damage that was done. Finally, be sure to reassure your child of your love, even when he or she makes wrong choices.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How important is being able to admit you are wrong?

As difficult as it may be to say those words, admitting that we are wrong is the necessary first step in the journey of forgiveness and reconciliation. "God's mercy makes possible the repentance of the sinner and the forgiveness of sin. Time and again in the Old Testament, the sins of the people are met with God's outreach of mercy and the invitation to be healed and return to a covenant relationship" (*USCCA, p. 235*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child what Jesus teaches us about forgiveness.
- Talk about a time when you needed forgiveness and received it. Share how it impacted you in some way.

LET'S PRAY >>>



God our Father, help us to be merciful and forgiving like Saint Jane Frances de Chantal. Amen.



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