

tone of voice and that they explicitly say what they are sorry for. With my kids, I never let them say just “I’m sorry.” At minimum, they are required to say, “I’m was wrong for hurting my brother,” or whatever it is that they’re being corrected for. And if I don’t like their attitude, I’ll ... have them repeat the apology with sincerity.

The second way to ensure a heart-felt apology is to have them ask for forgiveness. When my kids are being corrected for hurting each other, I require that they ask the other for forgiveness. It makes them very uncomfortable but in a good way. It makes them accountable to the person they hurt, and it gives all of the power to the person who was hurt. The child who is being corrected has to give up control over the situation.

The Ezzos explain it well:

“Why is this forgiveness thing so powerful? Simply, it gets to the heart of the matter. Our hearts. When you say ‘I’m sorry,’ you’re in control of that moment. You control the depth and sincerity of your sorrow. But when you seek forgiveness, the one you’re humbling yourself before is in control. You’re asking something of that person that you cannot get without his or her consent—forgiveness. It is this humbling effect that so wonderfully curbs a child’s (and a parent’s) appetite for going back and doing the same wrong thing again,” (On Becoming Childwise, p. 139).

When my husband and I took the Growing Kids God’s Way class, we were encouraged to have the boys ask for forgiveness from us when they hurt each other. When William hurt his little brother (Lucas was a baby at the time), it wasn’t just their relationship with each other that was called into question. William was hurting my baby, so he was required to ask for forgiveness from me.

How do you handle apologies in your home? Try having them ask for forgiveness (even with you, or especially with you) and see if it makes a difference in achieving a humble spirit.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

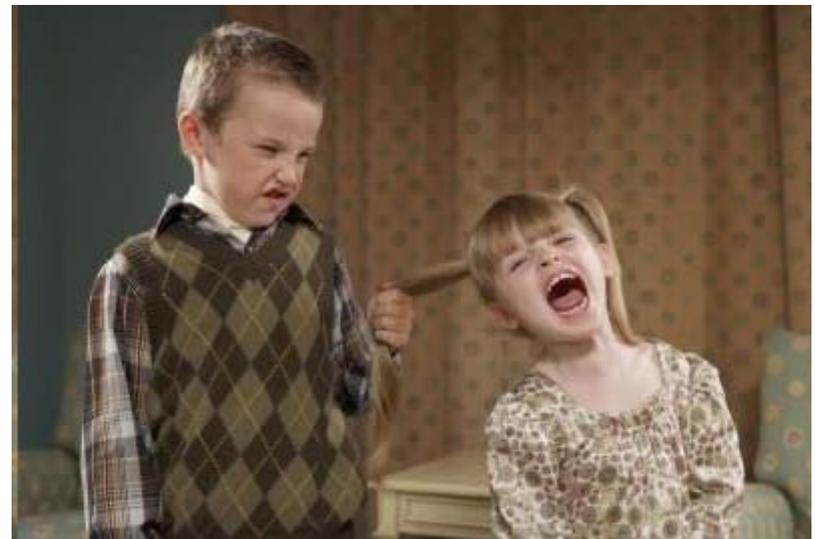
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Have them ask for Forgiveness

Have you taught your kids the difference between saying “I’m sorry” and asking for forgiveness? .. I require my kids to apologise to me and to seek forgiveness from the person they hurt (physically or otherwise).

When all we require of our children is a simple “I’m sorry” or worse “sorry,” we end up with a child who shows little repentance for their actions. The attitude with which they utter “sorry” tells a lot, too. Some kids say it under their breath, use a whining voice, or say it indignantly. I remember watching Super nanny and seeing kids .. say “sorry” with zero conviction or repentance in their hearts. They apologised because it meant the end of the timeout. And these parents accepted their “sorry” no matter what attitude was behind it.

Don’t fall into this trap. Make sure you get a heart-felt apology from your child. There are a couple ways to do this. First, require that they use an appropriate





Our Home The Rod IV

After discipline there are three issues for a Christian parent to consider:

1. _____,

Ephesians 6:1

(Isaiah 59:2) "But your iniquities have separated you from your God;"

(2 Corinthians 7:10) "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Proverbs 28:13) "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

(Psalms 51:9) "Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities."

(Psalms 51:17) "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise."

2. _____,

(Luke 17:3-4) ""Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. {4} "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him.""

3. _____, Ephesians 6:2-3

(Matthew 5:23-24) ""Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."



There are 8 blessings from using the rod of correction in a godly way:

#1. It teaches that there are _____ to our behaviour, (Galatians 6:7) "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

#2. It reminds parents that they are under God's _____,

#3. It trains a child to be under _____,

#4. It is a demonstration of parental _____, Heb 12:6

#5. It yields the _____ fruit of _____, Heb12:11

#6. It _____ relationship with the child, Ephesians 6:2-3

#7. It promotes an atmosphere of _____ between parents and children

#8. It works together with _____ and appeal to the conscience,

(Proverbs 29:15) "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

