

CAMP VENTURE

Hey Pals,

Jesus wants us to forgive others. If you met someone who didn't know what it means to forgive, how would you describe it? Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we have done and the right things we have left undone (things we should have done, but did not.) Have you ever had to forgive someone for something he or she did to you? (Campers respond.) Have you ever had to forgive someone for something he or she would not do for you? (Campers respond.)

Have you ever heard of holding a grudge against someone? (Campers respond.) It means staying angry with a person for what he or she has done, instead of truly forgiving. Paul describes it as keeping a record of wrongs. Remove the blank paper, pebble, and tape from the mailbag. Fold the paper into a paper airplane or have an older camper fold it. This paper airplane stands for your life. Let's think of this pebble as a grudge. When you do not forgive someone, it is as if you are carrying a heavy rock with you wherever you go. Tape the pebble onto the paper airplane. Attempt to fly the weighted paper airplane across the room. When we do not forgive someone, the grudge we hold weighs us down and keeps us from being all God wants us to be. We are hurting ourselves. Jesus does not hold grudges and He does not want us to either. Has forgiving someone ever been very hard for you? (Campers respond.) Paul reminds us that we can avoid carrying a grudge by being kind, gentle, patient, and forgiving. If you ask God to help you forgive others, He will do it!

Close your eyes. Let's take seven seconds of silence. Ask God to remind you of anyone you have not yet forgiven for wronging you. Pause for 7 seconds of silent prayer. Now, let's pray and ask God to fill us with His Spirit so we are able to forgive each person that has wronged us, even if they have never said they were sorry. Lead a brief prayer asking for God's help in forgiving others.

**Believe and Be Forgiving,
Your Pen Pal**

