Forgiveness

When we don't forgive, everyone suffers.

All the sins…will be forgiven them.
Mark 3:28

Playground Forgiveness

Andy loved playing on the school playground. He would run after his friends, screaming and laughing as he chased them around the swings. He especially like playing with Brad, even though sometimes Brad would get a little rough.

One day on the playground, when the kids were playing chase, Brad ran up behind Andy and grabbed his hair. Andy yelled for Brad to let go, but Brad only pulled harder and harder. In fact, Brad pulled so hard that a handful of Andy's hair was ripped out of his head. Andy cried when he saw what Brad had done. As he rubbed his sore head, Andy vowed to never again play with Brad.

The next few times that Andy played on the playground he wouldn't let Brad play with him. Brad was sad, but so was Andy. After a while, Andy finally decided to play with Brad again. Soon they had forgotten that they were ever mad at each other.

The Bible teaches us to forgive each other. Sometimes it can be hard to forgive someone when they've done something to hurt us, but as Andy learned, refusing to forgive someone doesn't make things better. When we don't forgive someone who has hurt us, we don't only make them sad, but ourselves as well.

Your Turn:

1. What did Brad do to hurt Andy?
2. Why didn't Andy let Brad play with him anymore on the playground?
3. Why is it important to forgive people who hurt us?

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for forgiving my sins. Please help me to forgive others when they do bad things too, Amen.