

JOYFUL HOMES AREN'T PERFECT

They forgive.



November: Post election, pre-Thanksgiving, 8 months into pandemic life. Raise your hand if you can use some forgiveness in your life right now! In a fallen world, families can only hope to stay healthy on a steady diet of forgiveness.

As a family, discuss:

- What is our normal pattern as a family when someone gets hurt? Do I like this pattern or not? Why?
- Have you ever met someone who is angry and bitter most of the time? What do you think contributed to this attitude?
- What difference would it make in the world if everyone just forgave one hurt in their lives?
- Who do I need to forgive?

Pick one practice this month!

One small, attainable goal sets us up for success.

- Parents, set an example this month by being proactive about asking and granting forgiveness to other members of the family.
- Adopt the phrase, "I forgive you."
- Have each member of the family think of someone they need to forgive, and pray each day for the grace to forgive them and wish them well.
- Add one small practice to help your family take the next step in faith:
 - Attend Confession together
 - Do a simple examination of conscience each night
 - Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

IT'S NOT OKAY

"Sorry."

"It's okay."

Have you ever had this little conversation? While it's a good start, it doesn't usually do the trick when a hurt is significant. Why? Because sin is not "okay," including sins committed against us.

Instead, try:

"Please forgive me."

"I forgive you."

In this way, the offending person is acknowledging that their sin needs to be forgiven, not excused. This simple change can make a big difference!

Scripture of the month: Lamentations 3:23

His mercies are new each morning.

How can we give ourselves and each other a clean slate each day?

Want more ideas and encouragement? www.archkcks.org/forgiveness