

# Family Devotion

(For Preschool & Elementary Children)

## "Welcome Back"

**THE BIG IDEA**

*"Even When I Fail, God Will Take Me Back!"*



**POWER VERSE**

*"Now, repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away." -Acts 3:19*

If you have pictures of your kids when they were babies and toddlers, get them out for this devotion. Take some time looking over them with your kids, telling the stories that led up to the picture. Especially point out pictures and tell stories about when your kids are just learning walk, eat by themselves, go to the potty, ride a bike, etc. Then talk about the following questions:

- How long do you think it took you to learn to walk/ride a bike/feed yourself?
- Do you think you made mistakes along the way?
- Do you think you ever had a bad attitude while you were trying to learn how to do this?
- How do you think we reacted when you had a bad attitude or you couldn't do what you were trying to do?

Explain to your kids that as they grow up, they'll continue to face challenges in learning how to do things. Not only that, they'll probably often fail while they're trying to learn. Sometimes that's the only way to learn. Then tell your kids that throughout their lives, they'll also fail God—they'll do something they know they shouldn't do. At times, they may feel like they've failed so badly, God wouldn't ever forgive them. Tell them that God isn't like that, though; just like you wouldn't kick them out of the family for failing, God won't kick them out of his family, either. They just need to admit their failure, ask for forgiveness, and make it right with the people they affected with their failure.

Take some time to discuss some failures you've had and how God has restored you (make sure the stories you tell are appropriate for your kids to hear). Then remind your kids of Peter's big failure in denying that he even knew who Jesus was. Explain that if God can forgive Peter, he can forgive them, too.

Finally, pray that God will help each of you believe that he will always accept you when you fail. Ask him to help you accept others when they fail, too.

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# *Family Devotion*

*(For Ages 12 & Up)*

## "Restored!"

Think about some of the famous people you know who have had some big-time failures in their lives like Tiger Woods, Brittany Spears, etc. Talk about the following questions:

- How do you feel when you hear that someone has failed?
- Do you usually hope things work out for them, or do you hope they get what they deserve?
- When a friend of yours fails, how do you feel? What do you want to do?
- When you yourself fail, how do you feel?
- What do you think about yourself when you fail?
- How easy is it for you to forgive yourself?
- How do you want others to treat you?

It seems like it's human nature to want other people to suffer for their failures, but sometimes we want to make ourselves suffer, too. We beat ourselves up for our failures and have a hard time forgiving ourselves, and we figure if we can't forgive ourselves, surely no one else will be able to, either.

That may be human nature, but it's not God's nature. God's nature is to welcome us back anytime and every time we fail if we'll just ask for his forgiveness. His plan for our lives doesn't change; he still has things he wants to accomplish through us once we've come back. So rather than staying away from him because we think he must be mad at us, we should hurry back to him and make it right. Then we can continue to accomplish what he wants us to do.

Thank God for his forgiveness that never ends, and ask him to help you understand just how big that forgiveness is.

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