

Mean Words

GOD'S WORD

“And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 (WEB)



THE STORY

LJ really wants a turn on his big sister Londyn's keyboard, and when she says “not right now,” he shouts, “You're mean! I wish you weren't my sister!” Londyn quietly walks away, and LJ's angry feeling turns into a heavy, sad one. Mom reminds him that words can build someone up or tear them down, and Dad tells how he once shouted mean words at his best friend and learned to say sorry first. So LJ makes Londyn a card with a big red heart, says sorry, and she forgives him.

Grandma tells LJ how Joseph's brothers were mean to him, and years later Joseph forgave them, because God turned something bad into something good (Genesis 37, 45 and 50).

TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

1. How did LJ's words make Londyn feel? How did LJ feel afterwards?
2. Why does saying sorry take courage? Who helped LJ find the courage?
3. Joseph forgave his brothers. Is there someone you can forgive, or say sorry to, this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

God, thank You for forgiving me. Help my words build people up and not tear them down. When I hurt someone, give me courage to say sorry, and when someone hurts me, help me forgive like You do. Amen.

TRY THIS WEEK

Make a “kind words jar” together. Each time someone in the family says something kind, or says sorry and makes it right, drop in a button or a dried bean. When hurtful words slip out, practice LJ's steps: stop, say sorry, make it right. Say Ephesians 4:32 together at dinner.

DRAW IT

Draw a card for someone you love, with a big red heart and kind words on it, like LJ made for Londyn.

