

## Kristin Learns About Forgiveness

Kristin had just started first grade. She liked it very much. But one day, she came home crying. It seemed that a girl in Kristin's class had pinched her and said some unkind things about her to some other kids. Kristin's mother listened and then said, "Well, my sweet little girl, you know what you have to do, don't you?"

Kristin said that she didn't know what to do. And even if she did know what to do, she was too angry to think about it. So Mother helped her by reminding her that she would just have to love the girl more. But Mother knew that it was easier to say it than it was to do it. So Mother didn't say anymore about it right then because she knew Kristin could talk about it in Sunday school the next day.

There was no Sunday school where Kristin lived, so she and her sister Celia, along with Celia's friend Jody who lived next door, had their own Sunday school. It was held in Kristin's house and her mother was the teacher. Mother also played all the hymns on their piano. It was a really neat thing to have Sunday school at home, and the girls loved all the special things they were learning about Jesus and God. They learned how Jesus loved people so much that he could heal them. He promised that if we really loved and followed him, we could do special things, too. But we would have to love all people and forgive them, no matter how unkind they had been to us.

When Sunday school began Mother asked if anyone remembered what Jesus had said on the cross when he was being crucified. Celia said that Jesus asked God, his Father, to forgive the people that had put him on the cross. "Now", said Mother, "if Jesus could ask God to forgive the people for crucifying him, he would want us to forgive someone who had done something mean to us." Then Mother asked if any of the girls had someone that they needed to forgive for being unkind to them. Kristin said that she knew that she needed to forgive the girl in her class that had pinched her. She said that she knew that loving the girl was forgiving her, and that is exactly what Jesus would have wanted her to do.

About three weeks later, when Kristin came home from school, she ran up to her mother and gave her a big hug. "Oh, Mummy, you remember the girl who was so mean to me and pinched me? Well, I loved her and forgave her everyday when I went to school. Now she loves me. We are good friends and we play together at recess."

Mother was so happy to hear the good news. She told Kristin that what had just happened with the other girl was proof of the power of Love to heal hurt and unloving feelings.



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*Luke 23: 34 "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."*