

FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

3RD GRADE

OBJECTIVE

Help your child understand God's purpose for sibling relationships and how they can show love, kindness, and forgiveness at home.

WHAT TO KNOW

Third graders are learning to handle sibling conflict, jealousy, and fairness. They're noticing how others are treated and asking deeper questions about relationships. This is a great time to show them that home is where we practice loving like Jesus—even when it's hard. As they become more aware of differences in abilities or responsibilities, they may struggle with comparison. Helping your child see siblings as teammates—and modeling empathy, forgiveness, and respect—lays a strong foundation for lasting relationships.

TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. Suppose either of them falls down. Then the one can help the other one up. Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 NIV

We were made to help each other. Siblings and friends can be a strong source of support.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths. Say only what helps to build others up and meets their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen. Ephesians 4:29 NIV

Our words have power. Speaking with kindness and encouragement builds stronger, healthier relationships.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Genesis 50:20 NIV

Joseph forgave his brothers, showing us how forgiveness brings healing.

Moses' sister Miriam watched over him and helped reconnect him to their family (Exodus 2:1–10). Her courage shows how siblings can care for each other in big ways. In contrast, Cain let jealousy lead him to hurt his brother Abel (Genesis 4:1–12). These stories remind us that with God's help, we can choose love, gratitude, and kindness—even when it's hard.



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TALK ABOUT IT

- What is something you've been through where you needed help from your brother or sister?
- Have you ever felt jealous of a sibling or friend?
- What can you do when you want to say something unkind?
- Why do you think God wants us to forgive each other?
- What does it look like to treat a sibling like a friend?

LIVE IT OUT

Share a story from your own life about a time a sibling helped you or stood by you. Then, invite your child to think of one way they can be kind or helpful to a sibling this week—like including them in play, using kind words, or offering help without being asked.

If they don't have siblings, talk about how close friends can be like family. They could write a note, do something thoughtful, or simply spend time with someone they care about. Keep an eye out this week for a moment when they can build connection or practice kindness. When conflict does come up, gently walk them through it, reminding them that mistakes are part of growing—and that love gives us the chance to try again.

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask God to help your child see their siblings or close friends as a gift. Pray for moments of kindness, forgiveness, and friendship to grow in your home.

"God, thank You for my family. Help me to love my brother or sister, be kind with my words, and forgive quickly. Teach me to treat others the way You treat me. Amen."

