

BROKEN RULES

by Tanya Ferdinandusz

Matthew bounced his ball on the brown-and-white checked floor. He was trying to make it bounce only on the brown tiles. Suddenly the ball bounced into the air. Matthew flung out his hand, but he was too late.

Crash! The ball went through the window.

"Oh no!" Matthew cried as he ran to the window.

"What was that noise?" asked Julie, his little sister. Julie stared at the broken glass on the windowsill. "Were you playing ball inside?" she asked.

Matthew nodded.

"Uh-oh," said Julie.

"Dad's going to be mad."

"I know," said Matthew, going for the dustpan and brush.

"I'll help," offered Julie, and she helped him clear up the bits of glass. Matthew looked at his ball lying in a flower bed below. He didn't feel like going after his ball. *What will I tell Dad?* he wondered, pacing up and down the room.

"I hear Dad!" announced Julie.

Matthew went to meet his father. "Dad!"

"Hi, Matt! How was your day?" Dad asked.

Matthew looked down at his toes. "Not that great."

"What happened, son?"

Mr. White put his arm around Matthew's shoulders.

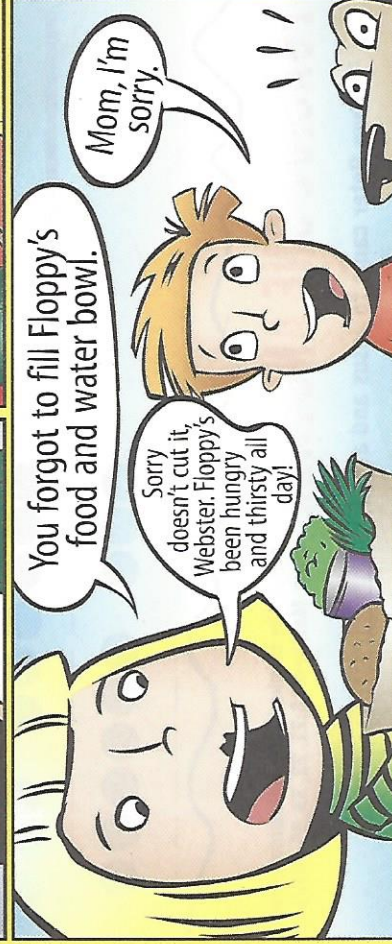
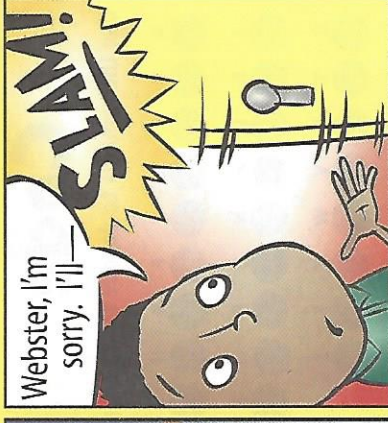
"I was playing in the kitchen and the ball hit the window and broke the glass. I know I'm not supposed to play ball indoors, Dad. I'm





TOON TIME

BY JENNA LUSBY AND KAREN CAIN
ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT ANGLE



"I didn't mean to." Dad had come to see what was going on. "I'm sorry, Dad. I know I broke the rule about not running inside."

"Matthew, what should I do?" asked Dad. "Should I forgive your sister for breaking a rule?"

Matthew remembered that Dad had forgiven him for breaking a rule. But this was different. Julie had dented his car. Matthew thought for a moment. How do you think Matthew should answer his dad?



sorry. I broke a rule."

"Thanks for telling the truth," Dad said. "I forgive you for breaking the rule."

"Thanks, Dad, for forgiving me. I won't play ball indoors again." Matthew didn't feel sad anymore. He ran to the garden, scooped up his ball, and threw it high into the air. "Hey, Julie!" Want to play ball?" he called.

"Dinnertime!" called Mom, and the family enjoyed dinner together. Then it was time for Julie and Matthew to do their homework.

When Matthew had finished his math homework, he took a break to play with his favorite remote-controlled car, racing it up and down the hallway. Soon, Julie came running out of her room and tripped right over the car.

"What did you do, Julie?" shouted Matthew. "You know the rules. We're not supposed to run inside. You dented my car!"

"I'm sorry, Matthew," said Julie.

When is it hard for you to forgive others?



How do you feel when someone forgives you?



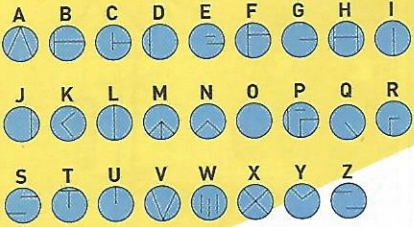
Kidz Chat, HeartShaper® Curriculum. Do not photocopy or reproduce. Photos © Thinkstock, pp. 1, 2.



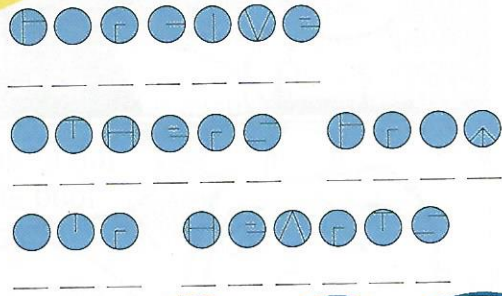
Crack the Code



Use the symbols to decode the message.



Jesus taught us to:



FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

Fill in the blanks in the following verses from Matthew 18:21, 22, 33, 35 (NIV).

²¹“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘_____, how _____ times shall I _____ my brother or sister ...? Up to _____ times?’”

²²“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven _____, but _____-seven times.’”

³³“Shouldn’t you have had _____ on your _____ servant just as I had on you?”

³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father _____ treat each of you _____ you forgive your brother or sister from your _____.”

CRACK THE CODE
 Jesus taught us to
 forgive others from our
 hearts.
 Lord, many, forgive,
 seven, times, seventy,
 mercy, fellow, will,
 unless, heart

FORGIVE ONE
 ANOTHER