



WEEK THREE

MATTHEW 9:9-10

Jesus tells Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, and he does.

SAY THIS

**WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?
I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.**

DO THIS



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus to show us how to love you and love others. I pray as [child's name] gets older that [he/she] will follow Jesus so [he/she] will know the right way to go. Help me be a good example for [child's name] of what it means to follow Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

REMEMBER THIS

"Come and follow me," Jesus said."
Matthew 4:19, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

MAKING PEACE WITH YOUR KIDS

by Sarah Anderson

Have your kids ever hurt your feelings? I don't mean their critique of your clothes, cooking, or stupid jokes. I mean the thing they say that just cuts to the quick.

A couple of weeks ago, one of my boys said something and it hurt so much, it felt like the wind was knocked out of me. He's young enough where I don't think the words were said with the intention to hurt, and he was oblivious to how hurtful his words were. But I am not naïve. I know a day will come when my boys will know the power of their words. And then they'll use those words to cause pain on purpose.

As hard as it was, I decided to not let those careless words create a rift. To not let hurt feelings dictate my behavior towards him. To move towards the one I felt inclined to back away from.

I decided to be a peacemaker. To be a mender of things made wrong—even when I was the one who had been wronged. To move past what had been broken in me, in order to make right what was broken between my son and me.

Not just a peace-liker. Not simply a peace-supporter. But a peace-maker

Jesus said peacemakers are called the children of God.

James, the brother of Jesus, said peacemakers reap a harvest of righteousness.

I say peacemakers have a better chance of a healthy relationship with their kids in the future.

Making peace is hard. Moving towards the one who's hurt us is challenging. But a parent who makes peace with their kids now sows a relationship of peace in the future.

No matter what my child does or says, no matter what my child doesn't say, or doesn't do, I want there to be no doubt about what he'll get from me: a mom who'll go to great lengths—not to keep the peace, but to make the peace.

As parents, let's work on resembling our heavenly Father in this. And live in expectation of what might happen when we do.

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