

Forgiveness Activity

SOWING AND REAPING

(Story & Project, 25 minutes)

This story reminds students that doing something wrong and trying to cover it up creates more problems. It is better to ask for forgiveness and make things right instead of waiting to be “found out.”

One hot Saturday morning, a farmer called his two sons and told them it was time to plant corn. The boys were glad to help, but they had waited all week for Saturday to come so they could go to the fair in town. They asked their father when they could go to town, and he said they could go as soon as they finished planting.

The boys started working, and by mid-morning they were tired and hot. As they rested under a shade tree, one of the boys had an idea.

“I know what we should do!” he said to his brother. “Let’s dig a hole and bury the corn. After all, Dad said we could go to town as soon as we finish planting. And the corn will be in the ground like he told us!”

The boys dug a hole, dumped the remaining corn into the hole, and covered the corn with dirt. Then they ran home to wash up. As they left for town, their father said, “Wow! You boys must have worked hard to finish planting so quickly. Are you sure you finished planting all the corn?”

“We planted it all,” they answered as they went out the door, trying not to look at their father.

When the boys arrived at the fair, they bought popcorn, ice cream, and soda. They did everything they wanted, but the fair wasn’t as much fun as they thought it would be. They felt badly about what they did with the corn, and even worse for lying to their father about it.

After two weeks, the boys heard their father calling them to come outside. They walked together around the barn and out to the corn field. Under the shade tree, they saw dozens of little corn plants sprouting from the ground.

The boys felt ashamed for what they did. They knew their father figured out what happened. They asked for his forgiveness for not finishing the job and then trying to cover up their actions by lying about it.

The father forgave his boys, but that did not take away the consequences. The boys had to carefully dig up each sprout and replant the corn in the field where it belonged. It took far longer to dig up and replant the corn than if the boys had done their job right the first time.

The boys learned a valuable lesson—that it is better to admit a mistake and make things right than to hide what you have done and lie about it.

Project:

Help students grow their own corn sprouts. Place several spoonfuls of potting soil in a plastic bag. Give each student one or two kernels of popcorn and instruct them to push the kernels into the soil. Water lightly and zip the bag closed so the bag becomes like a terrarium.



Hang the bags in a sunny window using suction-cup hooks or pieces of tape. Write the date on a piece of tape and attach it to the bag. Later, when the roots and leaves begin to form, add another piece of tape with that day’s date. How many days did it take for the corn to sprout?

Supplies: plastic bags, potting soil and spoon, suction cup hooks or tape, markers, a sunny window

