

# REBONDING WITH GOD

In matters of divorce the good guy always gets the blame. It's another way of saying that children take out their anger on the ones closest to them...the ones they feel SAFE with. At the top of this list are Mom and God. In a way it is a sign of their great confidence. The downside is that this cuts them off from the only sources of love available. Letting children blame parents, grandparents and God is necessary...they *must* be allowed to express themselves. BUT this release of anger should NEVER be allowed to become permanent...especially not with God. **How we pray every parent or grand parent who visits our site will walk their child through the rebonding process with His or Her Father in Heaven.**

***First***...Share the stories of Moses, Joseph, Samuel and Daniel and Esther. Moses was in a custody battle for 40 years. He could not choose between families. Joseph lived with constant anger...4 angry mothers, 10 angry brothers, angry grandparents and one very angry uncle. Samuel lost both parents at a very young age and lived with loneliness. Daniel had to get along at school without a family to lend him support or love. Esther was constantly afraid and powerless. She could not even speak to the king (powerful adult) without permission and fear of retaliation. All five of them walked with God...hearing his voice and praying on a daily basis. All five of them became strong, holy, compassionate leaders of their nation. The point is that having family problems does not put you at the bottom of God's list. It puts you at the top... someone who gets God's personal attention...someone who should expect the miracles of comfort, guidance, hope and love. Your local Christian bookstore will have an age appropriate version of all five stories.

***Second*** is The Lord's Prayer. An 82 year old prayer partner once shared his story with me. At age two his father abandoned him in an unheated shack in the middle of a north Dakota blizzard...30 degrees below zero. His life expectancy was less than one half hour. By the grace of God his grandfather found him. But he was cold for the rest of his life...the chill of being abandoned by a parent. He said that until this day the only thing that would warm him were the first two words of The Lord's Prayer; "Our Father" which he changed to "MY Father". I invite anyone who reads this little article to visit [www.teachustoprayer.com](http://www.teachustoprayer.com) a website on teaching prayer sponsored by the Christian Child Care Coalition. It is worth the time...a lasting legacy for any child who must get along without a father...even if it is only through the week. Make prayer something your child sticks with until he hears from God. The answers are the one thing that will make prayer and God real and personal.

***Third***... **but one of the most important for the children of divorce is to disarm their anger by helping them turn loose of their desire to have things the way they were. A good demonstration is to give them a penny and ask them to hold it as**

**tight as they can so no one can take it away. Then offer them a dollar. The only way they can RECEIVE from God is to turn loose of what they are holding on to. God has good things for all of us...each day...the catch is we have to give up our own idea of what would make us happy (the penny) before we can receive. THEN ask the child to hold the penny again but this time ask him to close his eyes. This is what holding on to the past is really like. We can't see what great things God is sending our way. Tell your child (grandchild) he can have what you have in your hand if he will try to look for the good things in each day instead of holding on to the way he wishes things were. This is something that you might try once a week every week until the child is grown. It might cost you a dollar or even five a week BUT if it helps you and your children EXPECT good things it is a miracle indeed.**

**There is one thing however that neither they nor we should ever release and that is God's command to love one another. The penny that we are holding may not be our dream of how we would like things to be. It may be the memory of all the hurt that led to the divorce. The miracle is that God has such riches to give if we are willing to release whatever we are holding so tightly whether it is our own dream of how things should be or our anger.**

**Fourth:** is to purchase a book of God's Bible Promises...one with sections on fear, anger, and loneliness. Copy off some scriptures on each emotion, cut them up put them in a bowl in the child's room. Each day the child puts a new scripture in his pocket...the seed of a lifetime of faith. Each day he will come closer to realizing just how much God is aware of him and how much he cares. Another website sponsored by the Christian Child Care Coalition [www.mypocketscriptures.com](http://www.mypocketscriptures.com) offers many pages of scripture cut ups at no cost. If we want miracles we must understand that they come one scripture and one day at a time.

**Fifth** is to bless your children each morning. Use the old testament blessing: THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU, THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS UNTO YOU. THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TWOARD YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE. Numbers 6:24-26, or the new testament blessing. MAY GOD STRENGTHEN YOU WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN YOUR INNER BEING SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEART THROUGH FAITH. Ephesians 3:16

The single greatest predictor of suicide among teenage boys is LOSS of parental attention. Using scripture blessings DAILY is a great way to remind ourselves and our children that we see them as FELLOW TRAVELERS worthy of respect and love, not as baggage to be towed along behind us as we work our way through OUR day. Using the blessing cards from [www.childrenafterdivorce.com](http://www.childrenafterdivorce.com) can remind them and us that it is their day too. One good idea is to print out some blessing cards and give them to the kids to be used as credit cards to be cashed in when they are feeling alone or neglected. Each card can be read in about 35 seconds, a small investment for a child who may be feeling that life is not worth living????

**Last**...is to ask forgiveness for the divorce. Parents who fail in this one area are leaving their children with only three choices...blame themselves...blame their parents... or blame God...all three of which are life crippling attitudes no one should wish on their children. Asking forgiveness is NOT taking the blame for the past...it is clearing the way for the future. **Don't wait**, take just five minutes to say: "Honey, I hope you can forgive me. I tried so very hard but only God can get love just right. Will you forgive me for not knowing how to stay married?????" WAIT for the child to answer. It could be the most important answer of his life. I have never seen a child withhold forgiveness when asked BUT if he won't or can't suggest a visit to your pastor or priest. Asking forgiveness of our children is not easy but it is necessary if they are to turn loose of their anger and reconnect to love and to God.

It is my prayer that those who read this article make a copy and share it with someone they know who is experiencing a divorce. The ideas are simple and just might make a life changing difference to millions of children.

Authors Note: We believe that NOTHING is more important to the child of divorce than a personal and intimate relationship with God. We believe this so much that we have built three websites to help parents who believe as we do.

**www.teachustoprayer.com** is dedicated to teaching prayer, most notably The Lord's Prayer.

**www.mypocketscriptures.com** is dedicated to helping children carry with them just the scripture they need...one a day.

**www.homework.ws** is dedicated to scripture coloring pages for parent or grandparents to color WITH their children.