

KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us



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LOYOLA PRESS.
A JESUIT MINISTRY
Chicago

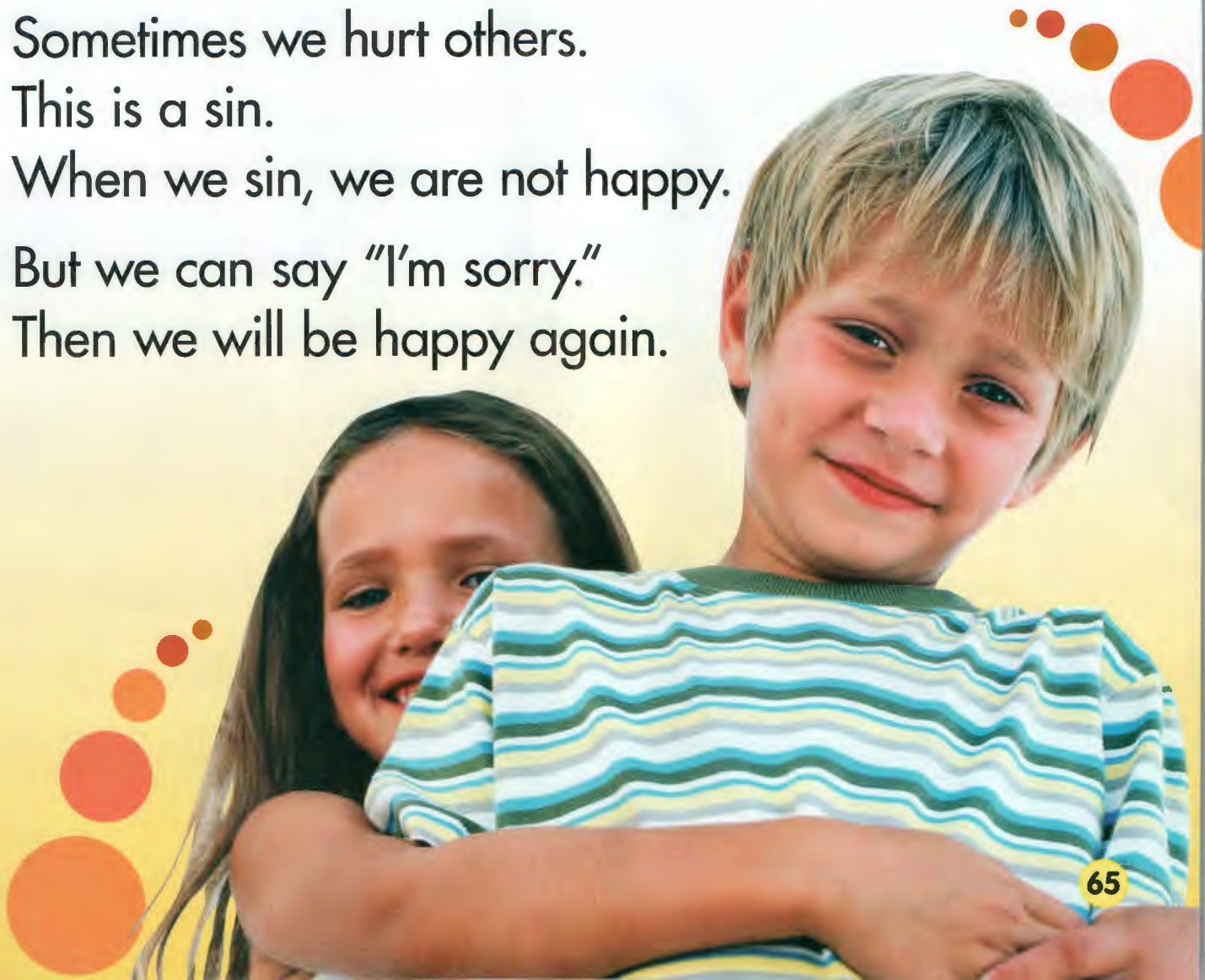
Forgiveness Is Good

It is not easy to always be loving.
Sometimes we do things
that do not please God.

Sometimes we hurt others.
This is a sin.

When we sin, we are not happy.

But we can say "I'm sorry."
Then we will be happy again.



Jesus wants us to be loving.

When we hurt someone,
we say "I'm sorry."

Jesus forgives us when
we say "I'm sorry."



Then we show our love as God's children.

We forgive like Jesus.

We forgive those who hurt us.



Scripture

Jesus said, "Forgive others from your heart."

Based on Matthew 18:35



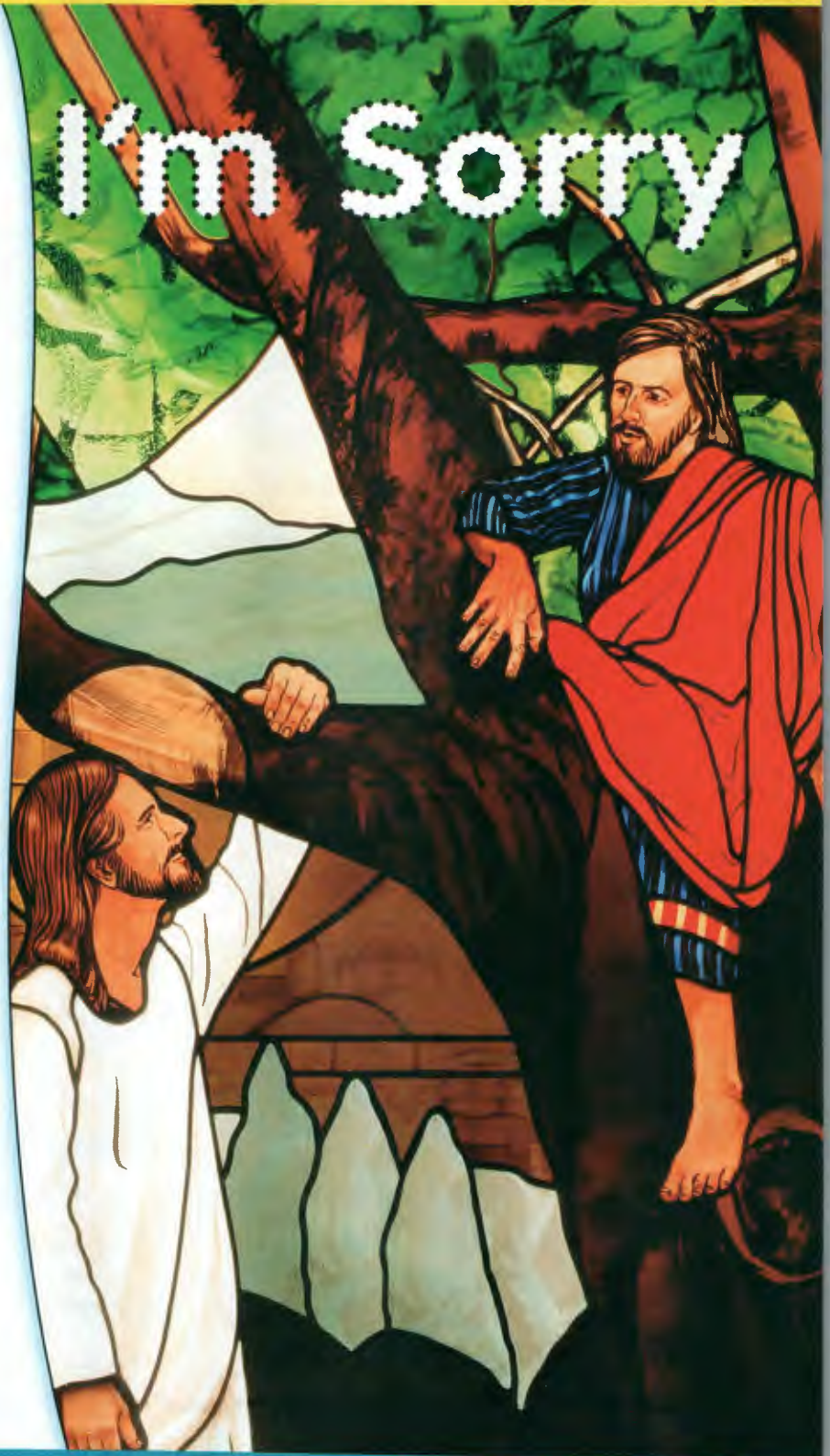
Try This

Jesus forgave Zacchaeus, a thief.

Find Zacchaeus in the tree. Circle him.

Trace over and color the words **I'm Sorry**.

Do you need to say "I'm sorry" to someone?



Forgiveness in Families

The Lesson Your Child Learned

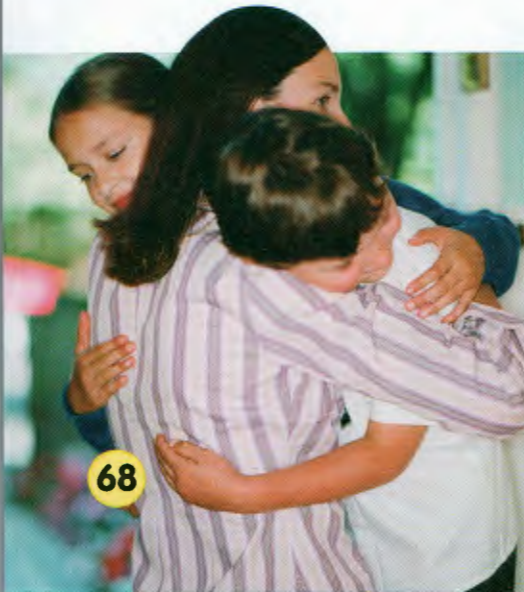
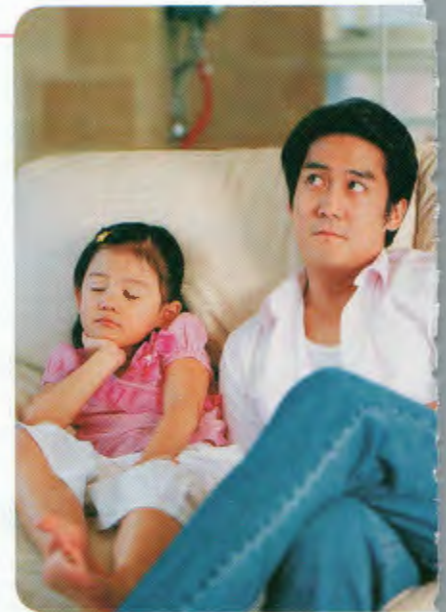
Our ability to feel and to express emotions enriches our lives. In themselves, feelings are neither good nor bad. We all have a need to admit our feelings and to take responsibility for the way we express them. Children who live in families where forgiving and being forgiven are part of life easily learn to accept God's forgiveness. In this chapter, the children explored some of their feelings and were made aware of others' feelings. They learned that it is wrong to hurt themselves, to hurt others, or to damage property when angry. They learned how to say "I'm sorry" when they hurt someone's feelings, and they heard Jesus tell them to forgive those who hurt them.

Living the Lesson

Did you ever play the game "hot potato"? I remember both the joy and the fear we had as kids as we hurriedly passed the "hot potato" so we didn't end up with it and get eliminated from the game. Sometimes families treat feelings like hot potatoes. When an uncomfortable emotion arises, each person tries to pass along that charged feeling to someone else.

There are three steps families can take to short-circuit the hot potato game. One, become aware of your own emotional state. Two, ask for God's help in responding appropriately to the emotions you find the most troublesome. Three, respond rather than react. Responding means that you don't just pass along the emotional charge. Instead you might calmly say, "It sounds as though you are upset. Let's figure out what you're feeling." And if your child expresses his or her emotions in a way that goes against your values, use that as a teachable moment, saying, "We don't talk to one another like that. It's okay to have your feelings, but it's not okay to be mean."

—Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)



Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
- Make room in your family for one another's feelings. Do not encourage repressing feelings, but teach your child how to deal with the feelings that come up. Welcome the feelings and coach them about the behavior.
- Readily say "I'm sorry" when you have acted in ways that don't live up to your values of respect and care for others.