

Aim: To discuss why we still have consequences even when we have been forgiven.

A few weeks ago we talked about rules and warnings and why we need them. **Can you remember some of the reasons we need rules?**

We learnt that rules are supposed to keep everyone safe and happy.

If you have broken a rule, like one of God's rules or one of your parent's rules, what do you need to ask for? (Forgiveness)

What does "forgiveness" mean?

What does "consequences" mean?

A lot of people think that if they've been forgiven there shouldn't be any consequences.

Imagine a child who has some money; Mum says to put it straight into their money box, but they don't and they lose it. They ask for forgiveness and say they will never do it again and then ask Mum to give them more money; but the consequences of not doing the right thing and losing their money is that they don't have it anymore; so when Mum says "I'm sorry but maybe next time you'll remember to do the right thing..." – she's not being mean, she's helping the child to learn about consequences.

Children who don't learn about consequences, will never grow up properly; they will always expect someone else to fix their problems.

Read Galatians 6:7 and Colossians 3:25

Sometimes the consequences of something aren't as obvious as losing money, they might not really affect the person who made the bad choice. Can you think of some examples?

Imagine a little boy is angry and throws his toy at a little girl. The little girl is upset, but the boy doesn't see what is wrong, so Mum has to make some more consequences for the boy so that he will learn. He might have to sit in the corner or lose his toy for a while. Mum does this to teach him that throwing toys at other people is a bad thing to do.

Last week how Jacob and his mother made the bad choice to trick his father; the consequence of that, was that his brother now hated him so much, that he had to leave home and go live with his uncle; a further consequence was that his uncle tricked him, giving him too wives, and as a consequence to that, we'll find out in the next few weeks that that caused a lot of family quarrels in Jacob's family. God promised Jacob that He loved him and would be with him, but Jacob still suffered the consequences.

What are some of the consequences for breaking rules at your home or at your school? Are they appropriate consequences?

What is the consequence of sinning? (Romans 6:23) Jesus offered to take the consequence for our sins when He died on the cross; because we sin, someone had to die the forever death; and that is what Jesus did for us.