

Trophy of Forgiveness

The sound of a thump came from upstairs. Suddenly Jimmy came running down the steps with tears streaming down his face, “Dad,” he cried, “I broke Anthony’s baseball trophy.”

“How did it happen?” asked Dad.

“I wanted to look at Anthony’s new trophy, but it was on one of the shelves. I got a stool and stood on that to get a better look. As I leaned over to look, the stool tipped over. As I fell, I grabbed the shelf to catch myself—and when I did, the trophy tipped and fell off. Anthony is going to be so mad at me.”

“Well, if you tell Anthony the truth and apologize, I’m sure he will forgive you.”

Later that night Anthony came home after baseball practice and the family had dinner together. After dinner was finished, Anthony went up into his room to put his practice equipment away. When he walked in, he saw the broken trophy on his desk. “Who broke my trophy!” he yelled.

Just then Jimmy walked in the door. “I’m so sorry,” he cried, “It was an accident.”

“I don’t care if it was an accident! What were you doing in my room?”

“I just wanted to look at it, but I fell and knocked it off the shelf.”

“I worked so hard to get that trophy and now you broke it. I will never forgive you. Get out!”

Jimmy ran to his room crying. Anthony walked down the stairs and sat down in a chair with a huff. Dad walked in and sat down on the couch. “So did Jimmy tell you what he did?” asked Dad.

“Yes,” said Anthony, “I will never forgive him for that. I worked so hard to get that trophy and now it’s broke because he went into my room without permission.”

“Anthony, God tells us that we must forgive someone when they sin against us. When they come to us in repentance and ask for forgiveness, we must forgive them. Just think, we sin all the time every day and yet God forgives us every time. He showed us we are forgiven by sending Jesus to die for our sins. Now don’t you think you can forgive Jimmy for the little thing he did to you?”

Anthony got up from his chair and ran upstairs to find Jimmy. “Hey Jimmy!”

“Yes, Anthony.”

“I forgive you for breaking my trophy, and I’m sorry for getting mad and yelling at you.”

“It’s okay,” said Jimmy, “I forgive you too.”