

PARENTING | WEEK 2

*Tis not to those who stand erect,
Or those who bend the knee,
It is to those who bow the heart
The Lord will gracious be;
It is the posture of the soul
That pleases or offends;
If it be not in God's sight right
Naught else can make amends.
Thou knowest the way to bring me back,
My fallen spirit to restore;
Oh, for Thy truth and mercy's sake,
Forgive, and bid me sin no more!
The ruins of my soul repair,
And make my heart a house of prayer.*

—CHARLES WESLEY

C: Confession (“I’m sorry” prayers)

When we have sinned, it is important that we recognize our sin, repent from our sin and ask God to forgive us. We want to be specific in confessing sin to God and others.

Here is God’s promise to His children who confess their sin and repent:

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

Do | Try to set aside time this week to build upon the prayers of adoration that we looked at last week by adding prayers of confession in your family prayer time. Read through the prayer story below with your children to help them see the importance of prayer.

Prayer focus

Pray for your family. Confess your sin to God and to each other and ask for forgiveness. Rejoice in God’s promise of forgiveness.

Read | Hudson Taylor's confession

Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, left his home in the city of Swatow, China to go to Shanghai to pick up medical equipment and medicine he had left there. When he got to Shanghai, he learned that the building housing the equipment and medicine had burned and everything was lost.

He had very little money, so he decided to walk to Ningpo, where he could buy supplies from another missionary. The heat was extreme, and he quickly became exhausted and had to hire men to carry his baggage. The men were unable to finish the trip, and he had to hire other men, but they stole his baggage. He was very discouraged and spent the night in an inn—which turned out to be infested with bugs and rats.

The next day he set out again but couldn't find a place to stay that night as no one wanted to house a foreigner. He ended up spending the night on the steps of a temple, where he had to stay up all night because there were robbers nearby. Discouraged and weary, Taylor started the long trip back to Shanghai, wondering why God had forsaken him.

Then he realized that he, in fact, had ignored God. He had never asked for guidance or protection on the trip. He had followed his own plan. He repented in tears and experienced God's forgiveness.

When he got back to Shanghai, Hudson Taylor discovered a letter and a check there for him. The check was for the exact amount he needed to purchase his medical equipment and medicine. He also discovered that had he picked up his supplies and returned to Swatow immediately, he would have been arrested and most likely executed. Later Hudson Taylor admitted that his worrying and fear were unnecessary and that he should have trusted God to guide him from the beginning.