



Dear Ministry Partner,

“I’m sorry”...those two little words can be VERY hard to say sometimes, especially within a marriage. Have you ever heard the saying “Love means never having to say you are sorry.”? I can’t think of a more untrue statement. Seeking and granting forgiveness is extremely important to a successful marriage and in doing so it brings couples closer together. This concept did not come natural to Nathan and I in our marriage. In fact, we learned the most about forgiveness through teaching forgiveness to our children.

When our kids get into conflicts, we have always had them say “I’m sorry” to one another. We often found that they would mutter it under their breath and without sincerity so we came up with a guideline for what an apology should look and sound like.

**“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:32**

1. Identify the offense and be specific. “I am sorry for...”
2. Repent. “I know that was wrong and it hurt you.”
3. Ask for forgiveness. “Will you forgive me?”
4. Reconciliation. Give each other a hug.

After teaching our children this model for forgiveness, we became very convicted. Our apologies did not look like this. In fact, I really had to think hard to remember the last time I had asked for forgiveness. Yikes! I know that there have been many times I have failed Nathan as a wife and I could not remember one instance where I sought forgiveness in the way we were trying to teach our children. In order for us to grow in our relationship, I knew that this needed to change.

It wasn’t long before God presented an opportunity for us to practice forgiveness. In the midst of a discussion over a disagreement, I lashed out a cold, undeserved, disrespectful statement. I knew I was wrong and owed Nathan an apology...a REAL apology. It took some time for me to reflect and prepare myself to talk to him. Later that night I approached Nathan and said; “Nathan I am sorry for disrespecting you and not speaking kindly to you. Will you forgive me?” It was surprising how hard it was to say those words, but I am so glad I did. It completely melted the harshness that had come between us. Nathan forgave me and also asked for forgiveness in how he responded to my harsh words. That night we took one step closer together, moving deeper in our relationship. It felt good!

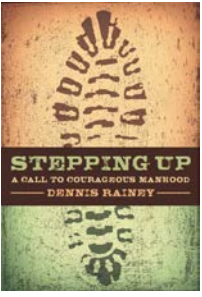
Because we know Jesus Christ and have accepted His forgiveness for our sins, we can better grant forgiveness to each other. The Art of Marriage has a great video clip about forgiveness. Visit www.theartofmarriage.com, click on “videos”, scroll through the video clips on the right then select the “forgiveness vignette”. Grab a pen and paper as you may want to record some tips and try putting them into practice. Start experiencing a blessing in your marriage by practicing forgiveness.

Nathan & Jennifer

Praises and Prayers

- **Praise** for GREAT Weekend to Remember events held in Kansas City, Chicago, and Branson in the past 2 weeks. We personally knew 6 couples that attended and the initial feedback is awesome!
- **Praise** for you, our ministry partners, that allow us to serve in a ministry that is touching lives all over the world with the love of Jesus Christ!
- **Praise** that we will stay focused on The One who called us into ministry and not get caught up in the busyness of doing ministry.
- **Pray** that families will continue to be transformed by God through the ministry of FamilyLife.

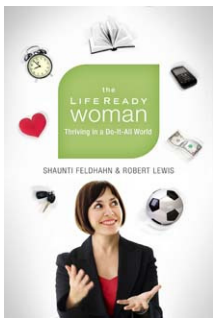
For the Men



Stepping Up, A call to courageous action by Dennis Rainey

Dennis Rainey identifies five stages of a man's journey through life and the responsibilities of each. Rainey tackles the call to living, breathing manhood head-on, offering a simple yet powerful vision for what it means to be a man who truly conquers—and truly wins.

For the Women



The Life Ready Woman, Thriving in a Do-It-All World by Shaunti Feldhahn and Robert Lewis

Whether you are a stay-at-home mom or an airplane-hopping executive, student or senior adult, here is a contemporary, encouraging vision for what it means to be a godly, biblically guided female in the twenty-first century.

FREE GIFT

The first 3 men to contact us will receive the book *Stepping Up* and a CD of the FamilyLife Today radio show series about this book.

The first 3 women to contact us will receive the book *Life Ready Woman* and a CD of the FamilyLife Today radio show series about this book.

Mark Your Calendar Now
Weekend to Remember

St. Louis, MO

November 4-6, 2011

Good news if you are the wife of a deer hunter, The Weekend to Remember is being held the weekend BEFORE Deer Season this year!

Lucas Asks for Forgiveness

Story provided with permission from Lucas

Recently Lucas came home from kindergarten pretty upset. For the first time, he had gotten in trouble at school for not listening to his teacher.

We talked about what had happened and he knew that what he had done was wrong. His teacher sent home a small form for us to sign so that she would know that we were aware of what had happened. As I was signing the form, I thought that this presented a perfect opportunity to teach Lucas about asking for forgiveness with someone outside of our family.

Lucas decided to write a note, *"I am sorry for not listening to you and not obeying the class rules. Will you forgive me?"* I attached the note to the form and sent it with him to school the next day.

When he got home from school the next day I asked him if his teacher read his note. He said, with a smile, *"Yes!"* *She called me up to her desk and said "Yes, I will forgive you." and then she gave me a hug."*

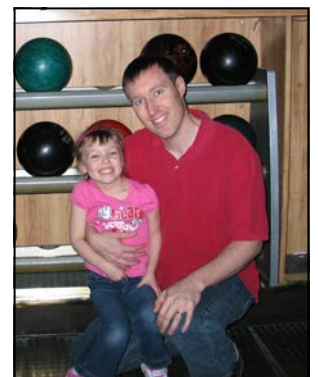
It was obvious that the relationship between Lucas and his teacher was restored. There is power in a real apology.

Special Moments with Dad



Lucas loves doing projects with his dad. Last month they worked together and built an indoor putting hole. I wish the kit came with foam golf balls instead of real ones. I just know we will break a window or dent a wall.

Allison enjoyed a special Daddy Day at Preschool. They went to the bowling alley. She was so proud to announce her score of 87! The day was topped off with a special date at Pizza Hut, just Allison and daddy.



Check out our personal web site:
www.njwalker.com