

DEVOTIONAL

"And call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." Psalm 50:15

"Everybody hurts", those were lyrics from an 80s band, R.E.M. As an adult that has bills and payments and the other stresses of adulthood you might miss it. You might miss the hurt of the children that you are raising, that you are teaching. Children have moments of hurt and all too often the blame is pointed back at the adults in their life who either are part of the problem or are ignoring the hurt. How do you help your child deal with their hurt?

Consider how God helps you in your hurt. He listens. When we pray, he hears us. You can be there for your child by listening to them in their moment of hurt. Unlike God we won't have all the answers but we can trust that he does and with our children take our hurts to him in prayer. Know that God sees your hurt and sent Jesus to take away not just the eternal punishment for the sin but the hurt. Jesus' love is there to heal the guilt and shame, the shame and guilt that accompanies the hurt of a child. Jesus points you away from you and your hurt to your God who promises to care for you.

PRAYER

Dear God, we thank you that in I Peter 5:7, you tell us that all of the burdens we carry, all of the cares that weigh heavy on our hearts, that we can not only hand them over, but we can cast them on you. That means that we don't

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have to carry them anymore and that you can take even the weight of them away from us.

God, this week as we talk about childhood and even also about parenting, we know that these topics can stir up a lot of memories and feelings about the past. We pray that, as we dive into these topics, you would heal any hurts that start to surface and that you would remind us that, in those places where we feel guilt or shame, that you offer us forgiveness. You offer us healing. This forgiveness and healing are found in the Cross. In those places where we have sinned, we ask that you would strengthen and empower us to be examples of your love to the children you've placed in our lives, whether our role in their lives is as parents, or teachers, or even just as adults you've placed along their path to speak into their lives and to be examples of what it means to follow you.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

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