

Forgiveness/Brotherhood Puppet Show

(Mark 11:25 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.")

Penguin	Ohhh, I'm so mad! I'm so mad! (<i>cringing and covering head</i>)
Octopus	What's the matter, Pengie?
Penguin	My brother broke my dolly and I am MAD. (<i>shakes</i>)
Octopus	Oh, that's too bad.
Penguin	My brother is the one that's bad, bad, bad! (<i>jumping up and down</i>)
Octopus	You're really upset, huh?
Penguin	I am so mad I am going to turn into a big ball of fire and burn up the whole world!!! Ahhhhhh!!!! (<i>running around as if on fire</i>) Hot, hot, hot!!
Octopus	Wow, you are angry.
Penguin	I'm so angry I could smash all my brother's toys and hit him and scream for twenty-hundred-million years!!!! (<i>writhes, groans and falls down</i>)
Octopus	(<i>stands over her</i>) I'm sorry you're feeling so upset.
Penguin	Oooh, I hurt myself getting so mad. (<i>clutches her head</i>)
Octopus	That doesn't seem right, does it?
Penguin	What doesn't seem right?
Octopus	Your brother hurt you already by breaking your doll. You shouldn't hurt yourself even more.
Penguin	(<i>melodramatically</i>) But how can I stop all this bad feeling inside me. I feel like I'm going to do something bad, myself!
Octopus	You need to forgive your brother, just like Jesus forgives everyone.
Penguin	Why does Jesus forgive us?
Octopus	Because He loves us. He died on the Cross to save us from our sins. He suffered for us to pay for everything we've ever done wrong.
Penguin	Did He pay for my brother breaking my doll?
Octopus	Yes, He did.
Penguin	Did He pay for me being so angry?
Octopus	Your feelings are not a sin. You're not doing anything wrong by being upset.
Penguin	But I feel like doing something bad to my brother!
Octopus	Feeling is not the same as doing. If you DO something bad, that would be a sin. Then you'd be hurting yourself even more.

Penguin	Oh, I'm so confused. I don't know what to do.
Octopus	Try this prayer: "Jesus, forgive my brother."
Penguin	<i>(sighs and huffs for a moment)</i> Jesus, forgive my brother. <i>(cries)</i>
Octopus	<i>(hugs her)</i> It's okay. That's it, let all your bad feelings come out.
Penguin	<i>(sniffs)</i> I feel a bit better, now.
Octopus	God is blessing you for forgiving your brother. If you start to feel bad again, throw the bad feelings up to Jesus and ask Him to turn them into something beautiful.
Penguin	He can do that?
Octopus	He sure can. Jesus is God and God can do anything.
Penguin	You know what?
Octopus	What.
Penguin	Forgiveness feels a lot better than not forgiving.
Octopus	You're learning one of the most important lessons of your whole life.
Penguin	Thanks, Ockie.
Octopus	You're welcome, Pengie.
Penguin	I wish you were my brother.
Octopus	Well, I am, in a way.
Penguin	How?
Octopus	We're all brothers and sisters in Christ. That's part of being in the royal family of God.
Penguin	Hurray! I have a good brother! I have a good brother!!!! <i>(bounces off)</i>
Octopus	And I have a funny little sister. <i>(swims off)</i>

The End

[I often tell the children how powerful their prayers are and that God can make something good out of any bad situation. A nice, kinetic way to drive this home is to have the children close their eyes and think of a worry; someone they know who is sick or sad, a problem at home or in the world, something troubling them at school. Next we open our eyes and pretend to cup the worry in our hands. Finally, we throw them up to God and "watch" Him catch them. We trust that He is already working for our good and that He holds our worries in His hands.]