

Heart of the Matter Cards Parent Guide



"Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me."
Psalm 51:10

The purpose of this parenting tool is to help your child:

- 1) **UNDERSTAND** what he or she did wrong
- 2) **CONNECT** the inner heart to outward behavior
- 3) **KNOW** God's word, His love and forgiveness
- 4) **MAKE** things right

corners+ones
for parents

Anger

Rage

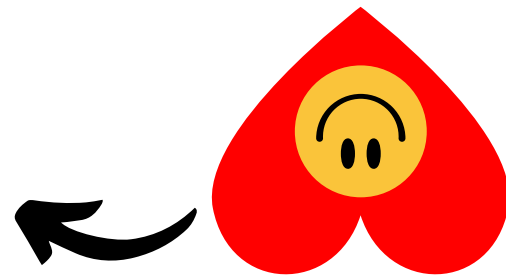
MAD

SCREAM!



"My dear friends, you should be quick to listen
and slow to speak or get angry. If you are
angry, you cannot do any of the good things
that God wants done."

James 1:19-20



How to Use

- 1) Provide many opportunities each day for your child to learn about God's love and forgiveness when misbehavior is not an issue.
- 2) If a misbehavior occurs, provide an appropriate consequence.
- 3) When you are both calm, lay the cards, colored side up, in front of him. Ask him to pick the card that best shows what happened.
- 4) Possible questions: "What is the child doing?" "Why is that wrong?" "How does he feel?" "What do you notice about the heart?" "God has something to say about this. Let's see what it is." Reverse the card, read the verse and discuss.
- 5) Possible questions: "What is the child doing?" "How does he feel?" "What do you notice about the heart?" Say: "Our behavior can show what is in our hearts."
- 6) Say: "We all make mistakes - even me - but we have hope because God loves us and He forgives us when we are sorry. He can give us a happy heart."
- 7) Pray with your child about what happened. Give him a hug.
- 8) Brainstorm together about ways your child can make things right and what might help him the next time he feels/acts this way.

HURT

pain

HIT

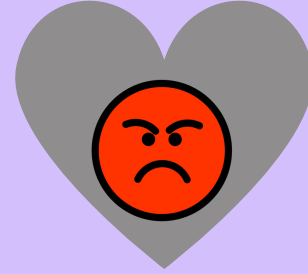
lash out



I REFUSE!!!!!!

Ignore

I won't listen to you!



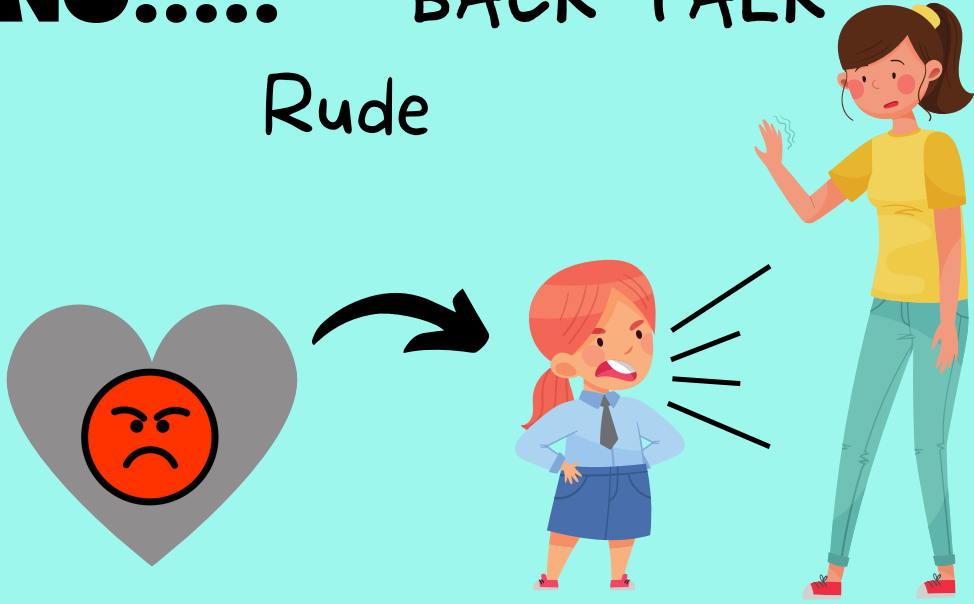
**"Always be gentle with others."
Philippians 4:5a**



**"Children, you belong to the Lord, and you
do the right thing when you obey your
parents."
Ephesians 6:1**

NO!!!!!! **BACK TALK**

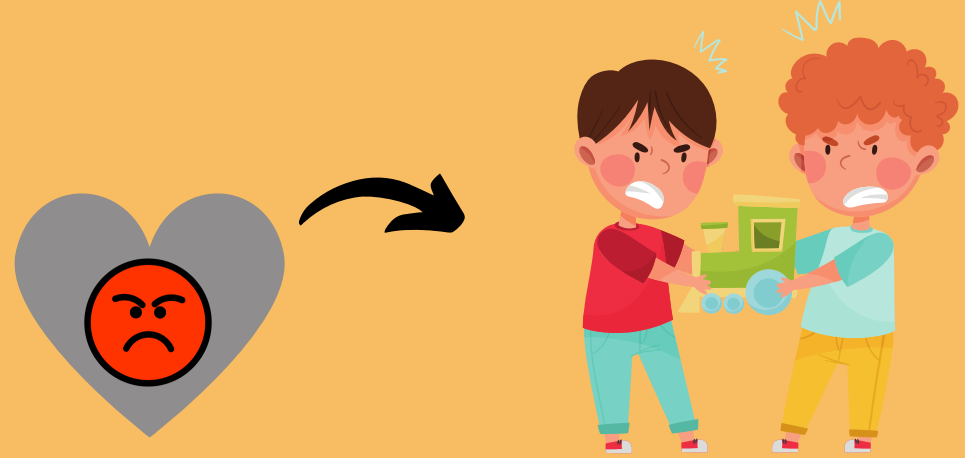
Rude



that's mine!

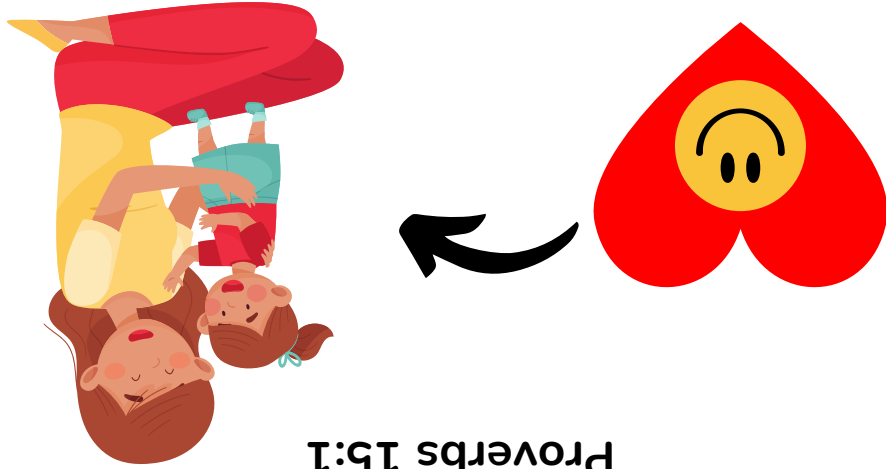
I WANT IT!

GIVE ME!!



"A kind answer soothes angry feelings,
but harsh words stir them up."

Proverbs 15:1



"Do not desire to possess anything that
belongs to another person." Exodus 20:17a
"We have everything we need to live a life that
pleases God." 2 Peter 1:3a

