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**Fishy Forgiveness**

Girl Forgives Serious Injury—Could You?

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**What Happened:**

What would you do if a shark attacked you and swam away, the taste of your leg still fresh in its mouth—after you were done screaming and someone had bandaged your wound?

Some folks never would swim in the ocean again. Others would try to hunt down the offending shark until its head was stuffed and hanging over the fireplace—if shark's heads can be stuffed, that is. However, 6-year-old Lucy Magnum of Durham, N.C., did something entirely different: She forgave the shark that bit her.

Lucy was playing around on her boogie board off the Ocracoke Island coast when a black-tipped shark grabbed onto her right leg and foot. She tried to swim away, but the shark was just too fast.

The shark let go, but not before its teeth left Lucy's leg torn, her tendons and muscles exposed. The girl's mother, Jordan Magnum, pulled her out of the water; and Lucy's father, emergency room physician Craig Magnum, wrapped her leg in a T-shirt until paramedics came. Lucy, meanwhile, remained pretty calm.

"Am I going to die?" she asked her parents. "Am I going to have a wheelchair?" Jordan says her daughter asked to pray. "We said a prayer for her on the beach," Jordan says. "Her faith and stoicism was a marvel to us."

Lucy's already undergone two painful surgeries to correct the damage the shark did to her leg, and she's still in a cast; but she's expected to make a full recovery. As far as the shark goes, Lucy harbors no ill feelings. "He didn't mean to do it," she says.

**Talk About It:**

We all get hurt. Pain, physical, emotional and sometimes even spiritual pain is a part of life. Even though it's human nature to blame someone or something for your pain, sometimes no one's at fault; and even if it *is* someone's fault, sometimes there's nothing anyone can do to make it better. We just have to...hurt.

When someone hurts you—breaks up with you, betrays you or hurts your feelings, how do you react? Do you get angry? Sad? Does it depend on the person and situation? Do you tend to blame the other person, or do you tend to blame yourself?

Have you gotten hurt and blamed someone else unfairly? Who? What happened? Did you eventually apologize? Has someone ever blamed *you* unfairly for some hurt *he or she* suffered?

Do you ever find that getting over these hurts is hard to do? Do you ever find yourself reliving the tragic events again and again? Do you find yourself getting bitter or resentful? Do you find yourself scared of getting into similar relationships for fear of being hurt again?

Do you try to forgive folks for hurting you—even if they didn't even really deserve your forgiveness? When? Was it hard? How did it feel afterward? Have *you* ever been forgiven?

**What the Bible Says:**

“A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense” (Prov. 19:11).

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins” (Mark 11:25).

“But I tell you who here me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27-28).

“Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion” (Ps. 103:2-4).