**The Snake and the Saw**

Once there was a snake that found his way into a hardware store late at night. He slithered around past a saw that had fallen on the ground. When he slithered past the saw, he got too close and cut himself on the saw. Thinking the saw was a threat, the snake spun around and bit the saw, cutting up his mouth all over from the teeth of the saw. The snake writhed in pain, and rethought his plan against his enemy. If he couldn’t bit it, he would strangle it, so the snake slithered around the saw and squeezed. The saw sliced deep into the snake’s body, cutting open organs. The snake squeezed harder and harder and slowly died.

Points of the story:

Sometimes people hurt us on purpose, on accident, or we just perceive they hurt us. If we turn around and attack back, we end up hurting ourselves. Resentment means to resend, or redo the hurt again ourselves. If we do not forgive, we end up putting ourselves through the hurt over and over again. We end up hurting ourselves instead. They say unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to die. Forgiveness is not just brushing off the hurt. It is acknowledging it, feeling the hurt, and choosing to forgive knowing that it was an injustice or sin against you following Jesus’ example.