**The Friends in the Desert**

Once there were two best friends that got lost in the desert. They were so hot and dying of thirst. With only a few drops of water left, they got into an argument about who would get it. The one friend slapped the other in the face. The man was sad, bent down, and wrote in the sand, “this day my best friend slapped me.” Then he stood up and they kept walking. Soon they came to an oasis in the desert with lots of trees and a watering hole. They were so excited to get some relief that they both jumped immediately. The one friend, though, started drowning. His friend pulled him out of the water and saved his life. The friend again bent down over a stone and carved in it, “this day my best friend saved my life.” The friend asked, “before when I betrayed you, you wrote it in the sand. Now you write it in a rock. Why did you change?” The friend looked up and explained, “When someone hurts you, you should write it in the sand where the wind of forgiveness can erase it. When something is done out of love, you should carve it in a rock where forgetfulness cannot blow it away.”

Points of the story:

Never forget what God has done for you. We should have the love of Jesus shown in the crucifixion seared upon our hearts, so we never forget. However, if anyone hurts us, we need to forgive and not hold onto it.