

THE OJOCHIDE SERIES • BOOK THREE



Ojochide Learns to Forgive

Forgiveness • Healing • Peace

Written by Christiana Iye Stephen

"A forgiving heart is a peaceful heart."

Copyright

Ojochide Learns to Forgive Book 3 in the Ojochide Series

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This is a work of children's Christian fiction. The characters and events are presented as part of the Ojochide story world.

Published by Christiana Iye Stephen / CIS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA CATALOGUING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

STEPHEN, Christiana I., 1985-

Ojochide learns to forgive / Christiana Iye Stephen

1. Children's stories, English
2. Christian fiction, English
3. Forgiveness—Juvenile literature

I. Title

PZ7.1.S828 2026 823.00809282

ISBN: 978-978-68-8751-7 (ebk) AACR2

Approved CIP record — 2026

Print ISBN: 978-978-68-8764-7

Dedication

To every child learning that forgiveness does not make you weak.

May you grow with a heart that is kind, courageous, and full of peace.

And to every parent, teacher, caregiver, and Sunday School leader helping little hearts learn the big lessons of God's love.

Acknowledgments

This book is a celebration of the simple but powerful lessons children learn through everyday experiences.

I am grateful to God for the inspiration behind The Ojochide Series and for the opportunity to create stories that help children discover faith, compassion, forgiveness, courage, and kindness.

I also appreciate every parent, teacher, caregiver, mentor, and child who encourages the telling of stories that build character and point young hearts toward God.

Thank you to everyone who believes that children's stories can do more than entertain—they can teach, encourage, heal, and plant seeds that grow for a lifetime.

With gratitude,
Christiana Iye Stephen

Author's Note

A message from Christiana Iye Stephen

Dear Reader,

Ojochide is growing, and so are the lessons she is learning. In Book 1, she learned that faith can begin with something as small as a seed. In Book 2, she discovered that compassion means noticing when someone is hurting and choosing to care.

Now, in Book 3, Ojochide faces something many children experience: being hurt by someone they love.

Through the broken airplane, Ojochide learns that forgiveness does not mean pretending that the hurt did not happen. It means choosing what to do with the hurt. With God's help, she learns to release anger, choose peace, and make wise choices.

My hope is that this story will give children language for difficult feelings and remind them that they can talk, pray, ask for help, and choose kindness.

Welcome to The Ojochide Series

Growing Hearts • Growing Faith • Growing Character

The Ojochide Series follows a curious young girl as she discovers that ordinary moments can teach extraordinary lessons. Each book explores a different character-building value through faith, family, friendship, and everyday childhood experiences.

Book 1 — Ojochide and the Little Seed of Faith

Theme: Faith

Faith can begin small and grow when we trust God.

Book 2 — Ojochide and the Lost Lamb

Theme: Compassion

Notice the needs of others and respond with kindness and care.

Book 3 — Ojochide Learns to Forgive

Theme: Forgiveness

Forgiveness does not erase hurt, but it can free the heart from anger and make room for peace.

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Chapter One: The Airplane



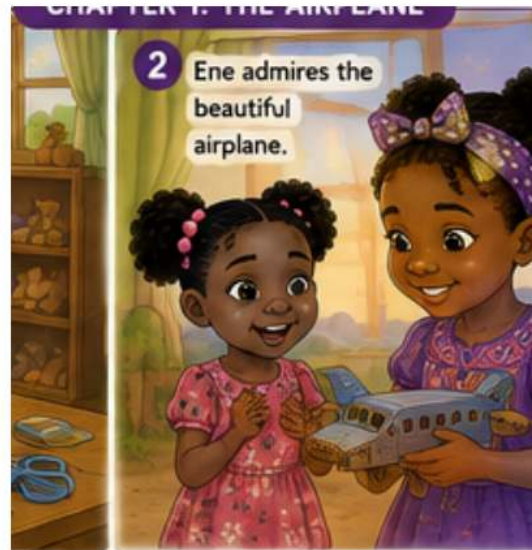
Ojochide
carefully
builds her
toy airplane.

It was a bright Saturday morning in Ojochide's village. She had spent almost a whole week building a toy airplane from cardboard, paper, glue, small sticks, and colourful paint. At last she stepped back proudly. "I really made an airplane!"

OJOCHIDE'S LESSON

Good work can take patience, care, and perseverance.

Chapter One: A Careful Promise



Ene admired the airplane and asked if she could play with it. Ojochide hesitated because she loved her new creation, but she agreed. "You can play with it, but please be very careful. I worked on it for many days." Ene promised.

OJOCHIDE'S LESSON

We can share what we value while teaching others to care for it.

The Airplane Breaks



2

The airplane
breaks.
Ojochide is
shocked and
Ene is sorry.

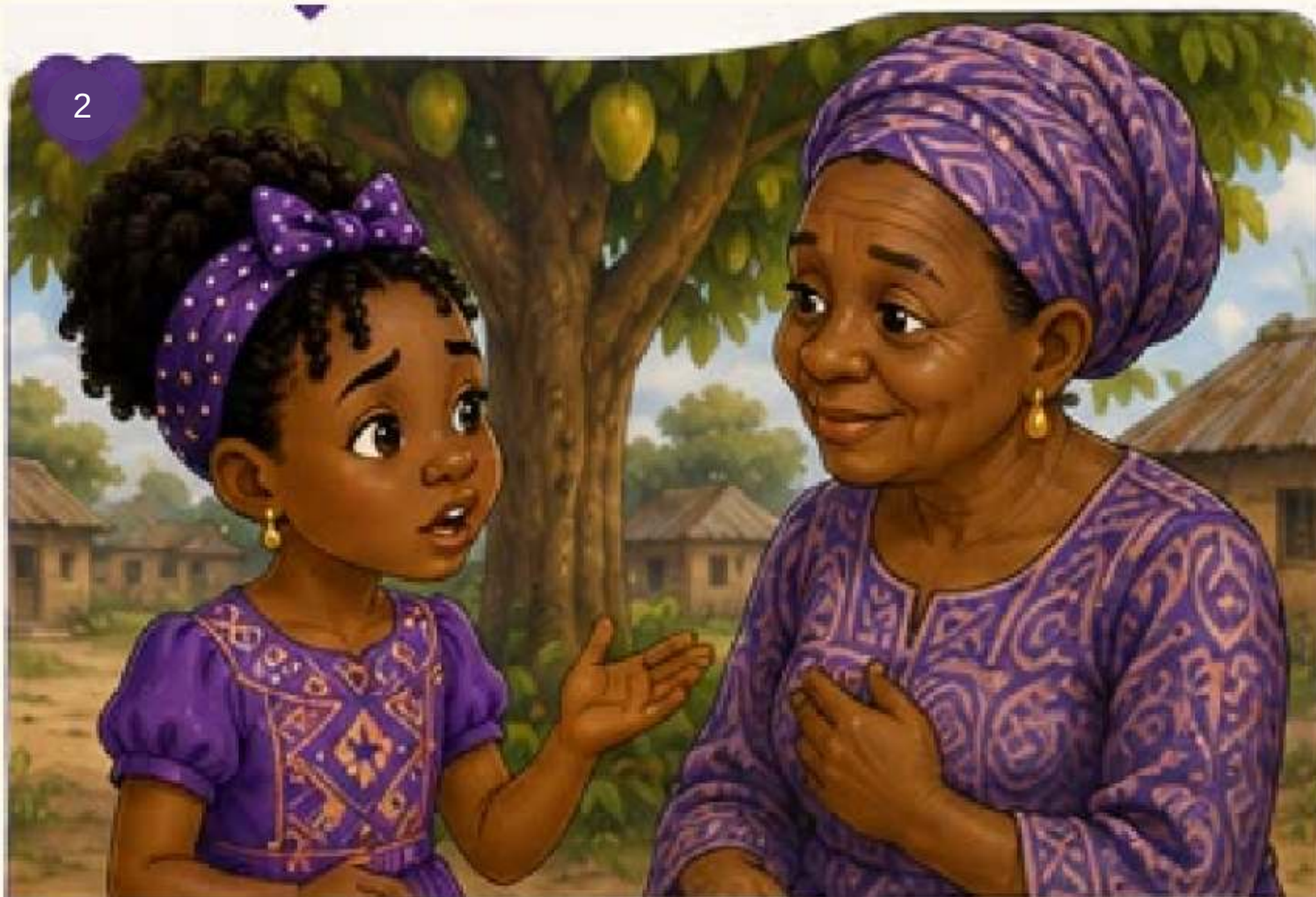
A few minutes later, Ojochide heard a loud crack. Her beautiful airplane lay broken on the ground. Ene's eyes filled with tears. "I'm sorry, Ojochide. I didn't mean to." Ojochide felt hurt and angry.

OJOCHIDE'S LESSON

It is okay to admit that something hurt you.



That evening, Ojochide sat quietly under the mango tree. Grandma noticed that she was unusually quiet. "My dear, what is troubling you?" Grandma asked gently. Ojochide told her everything about her airplane.



"She said she was sorry," Ojochide said,
"but I don't want to forgive her."

"I understand that you are hurt," Grandma replied.
"Then why should I forgive her?" Ojochide asked.

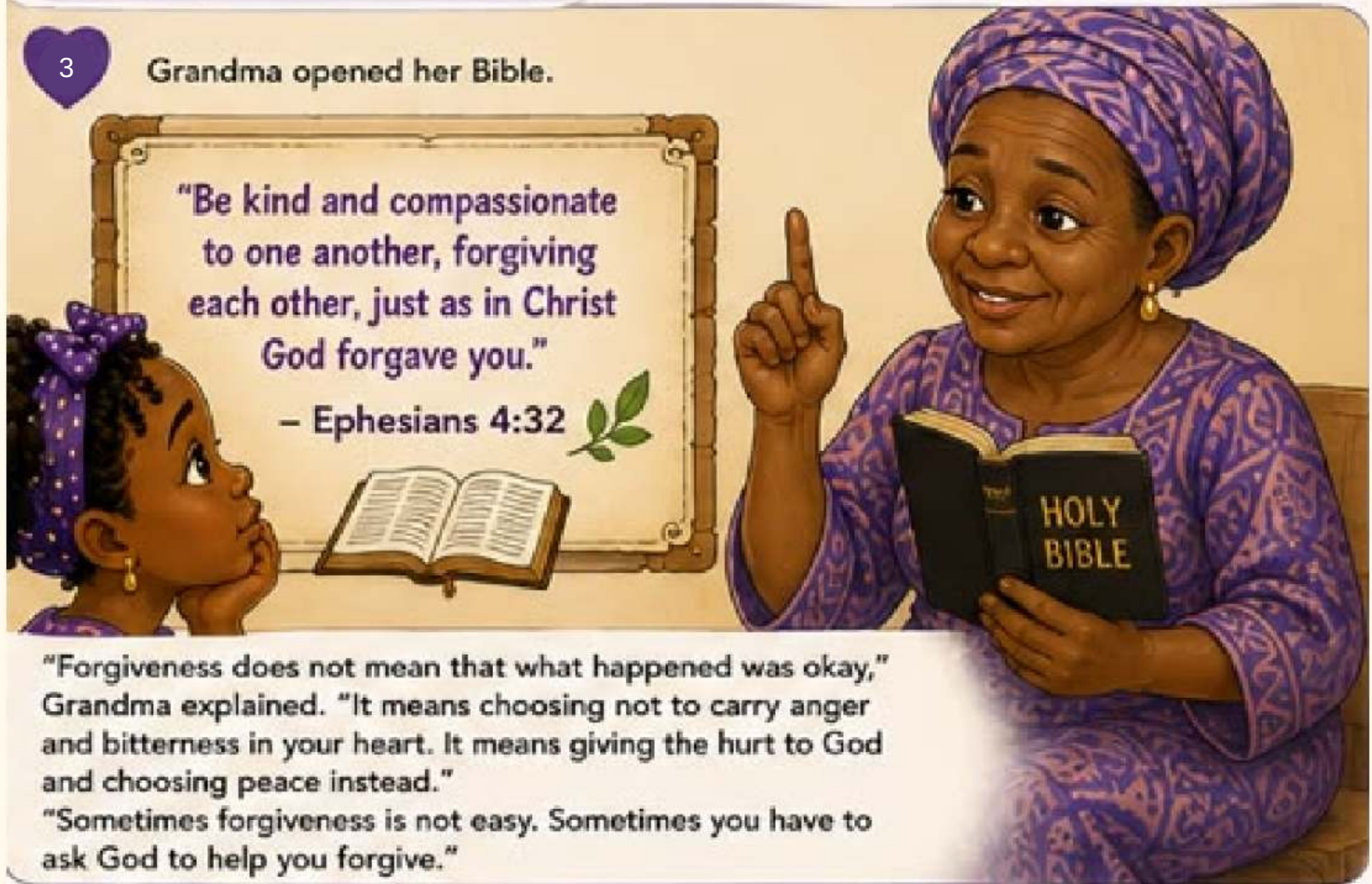
– Ephesians 4:32

3

Grandma opened her Bible.

“Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.”

– Ephesians 4:32



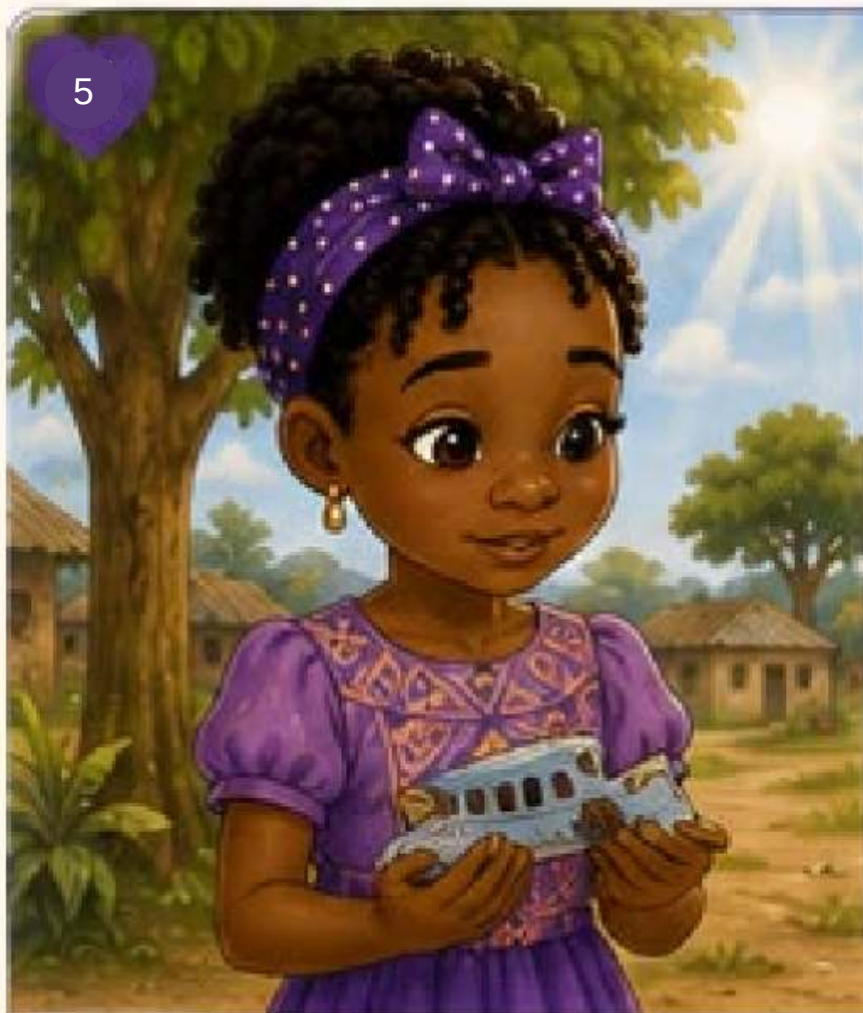
“Forgiveness does not mean that what happened was okay,” Grandma explained. “It means choosing not to carry anger and bitterness in your heart. It means giving the hurt to God and choosing peace instead.”

“Sometimes forgiveness is not easy. Sometimes you have to ask God to help you forgive.”



That night, Ojochide knelt beside her bed.
"Dear Lord, I'm still hurt because Ene broke my airplane.
I'm angry, and I don't know how to forgive her.
Please help me. Help me forgive Ene the way You forgive me."
Then she went to sleep.





Grandma's Lesson:

- ♥ Forgiveness does not mean pretending that nothing happened.
- ♥ Forgiveness does not mean forgetting what happened.
- ♥ Forgiveness does not mean that you have to trust someone again right away.

Forgiveness and wisdom
can live together.



The next morning, Ojochide felt different.
The airplane was still broken, but something in her heart
had changed. She remembered Grandma's words.





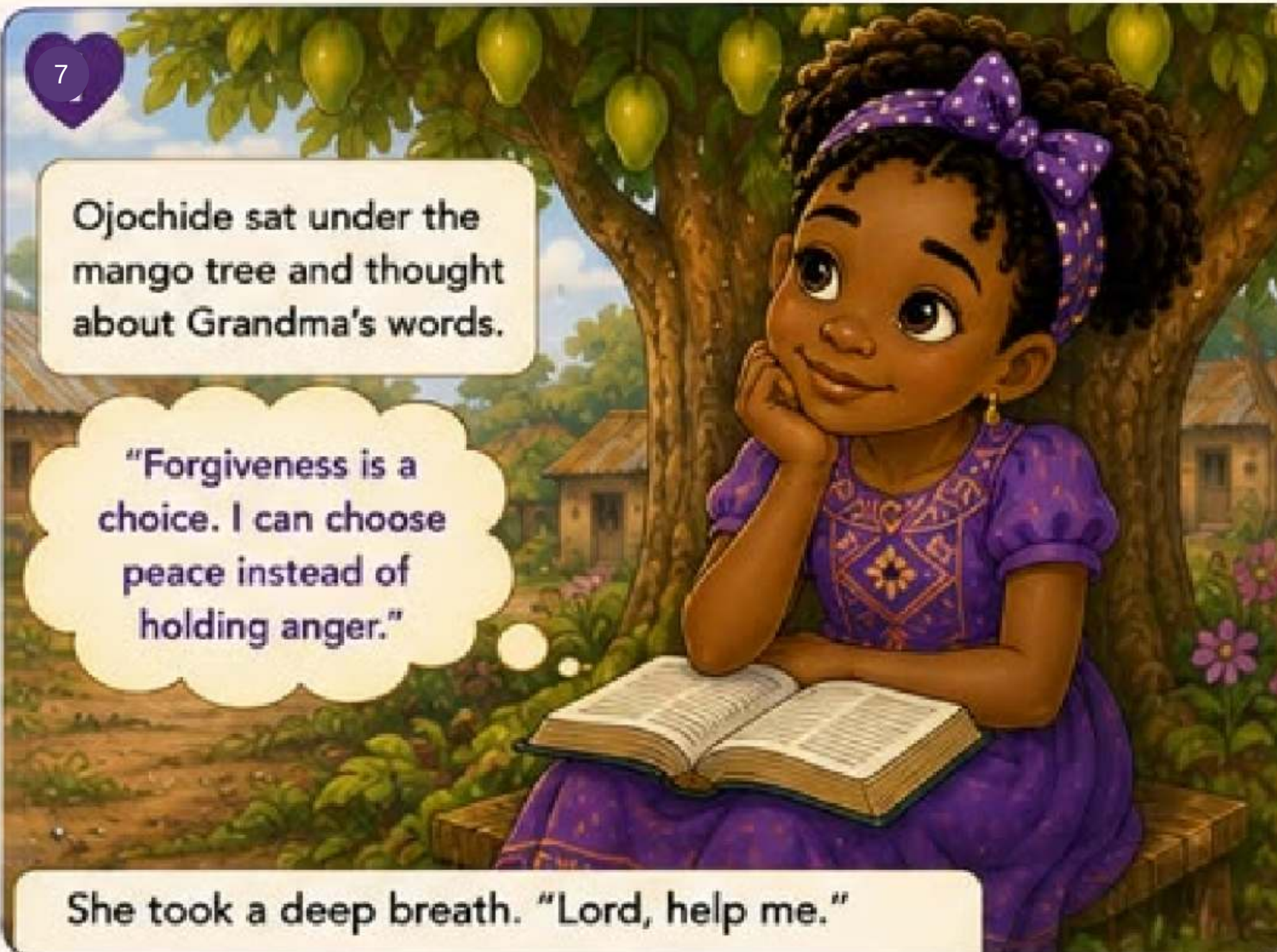
Ojochide's Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me.
Thank You for teaching me
about forgiveness.
Please help me forgive others,
even when it is hard.
Help me choose peace
instead of anger.
Amen.



"Thank You, Jesus," she whispered.
"For helping me learn to forgive."
And she went to sleep with a lighter heart.



A young girl with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a purple dress with a white pattern and a purple headband with a bow, sits on a wooden bench under a large mango tree. She is holding an open book on her lap and resting her chin on her hand, looking thoughtful. The background shows a village with small houses and lush greenery.

Ojochide sat under the mango tree and thought about Grandma's words.

"Forgiveness is a choice. I can choose peace instead of holding anger."

She took a deep breath. "Lord, help me."

Ojochide walked to where Ene was playing.

She was a little scared, but she remembered that forgiveness is brave.

"Ene," she said softly, "can we talk?"

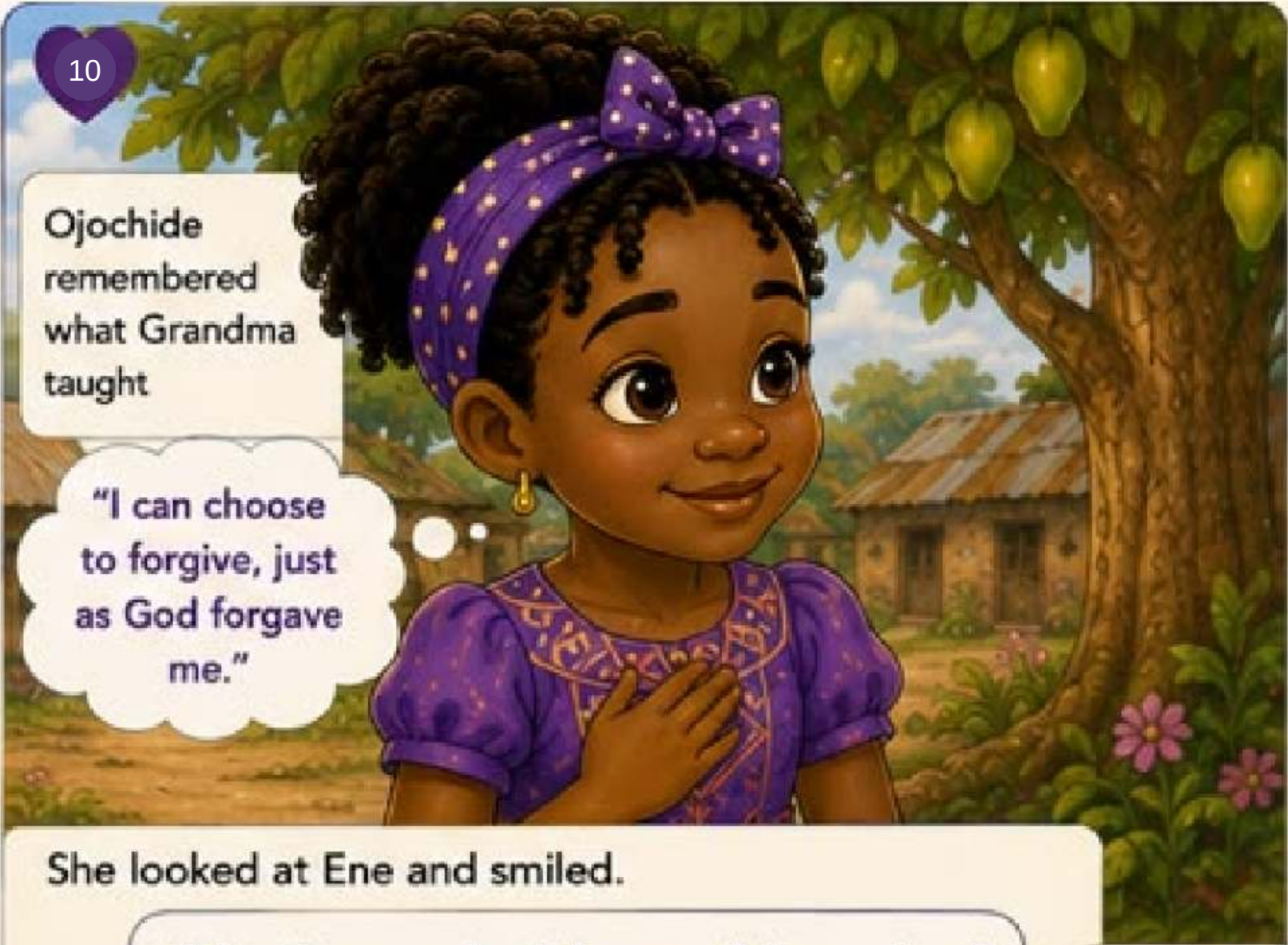
Ene looked down
and said,

"I'm so sorry, Ojochide.
I didn't mean to break
your airplane."

Tears rolled down
her cheeks.

"I was careless," Ene whispered.





Ojochide remembered what Grandma taught

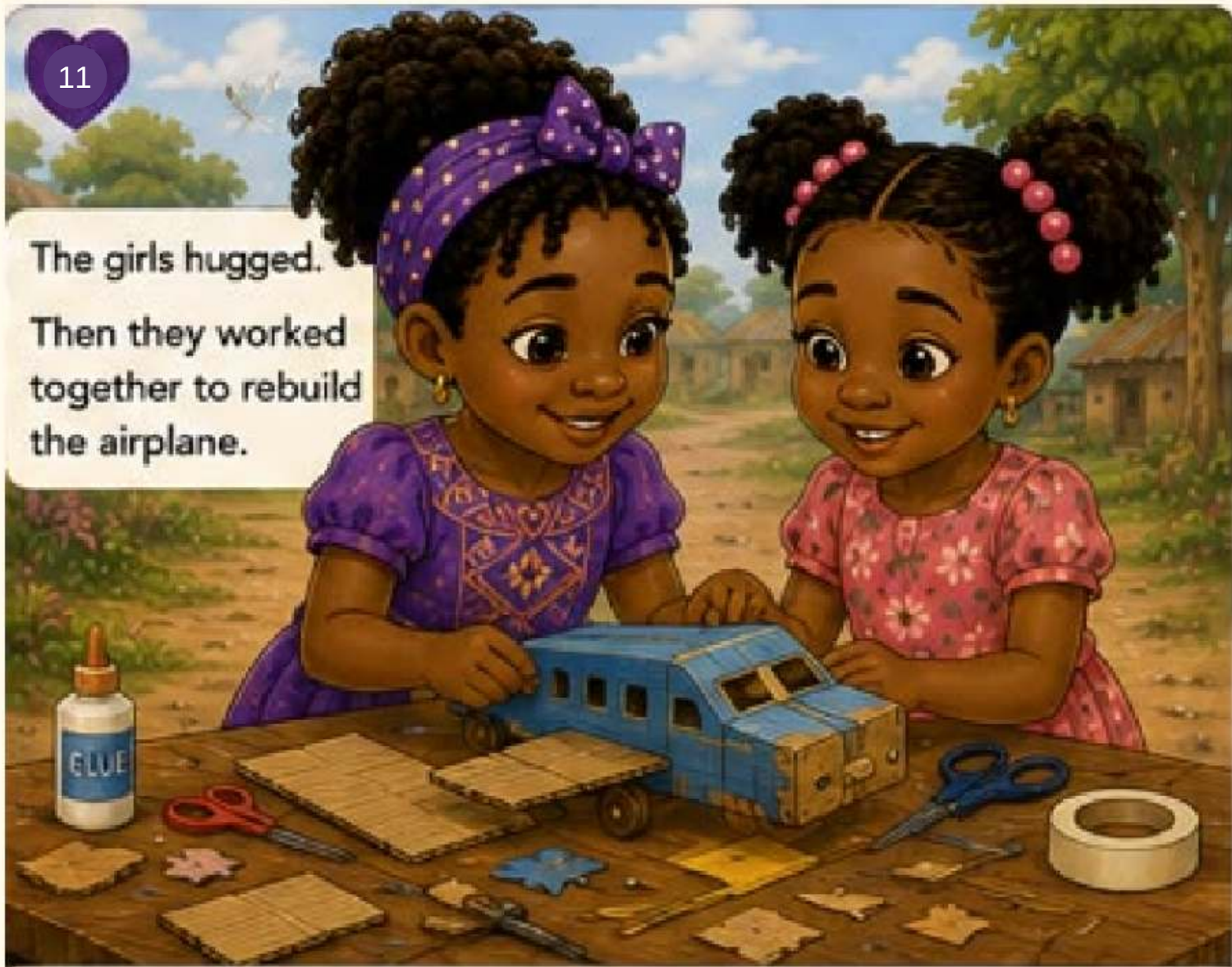
"I can choose to forgive, just as God forgave me."

She looked at Ene and smiled.

"I forgive you. Let's be careful together."



The girls hugged.
Then they worked
together to rebuild
the airplane.



This time, it was even stronger than before!



Ojochide held the airplane and felt something warm in her heart.

"Forgiveness brings peace!"

Forgiveness Challenge

When someone hurts you, stop and pray.

Then choose to forgive, just as Jesus forgave you.

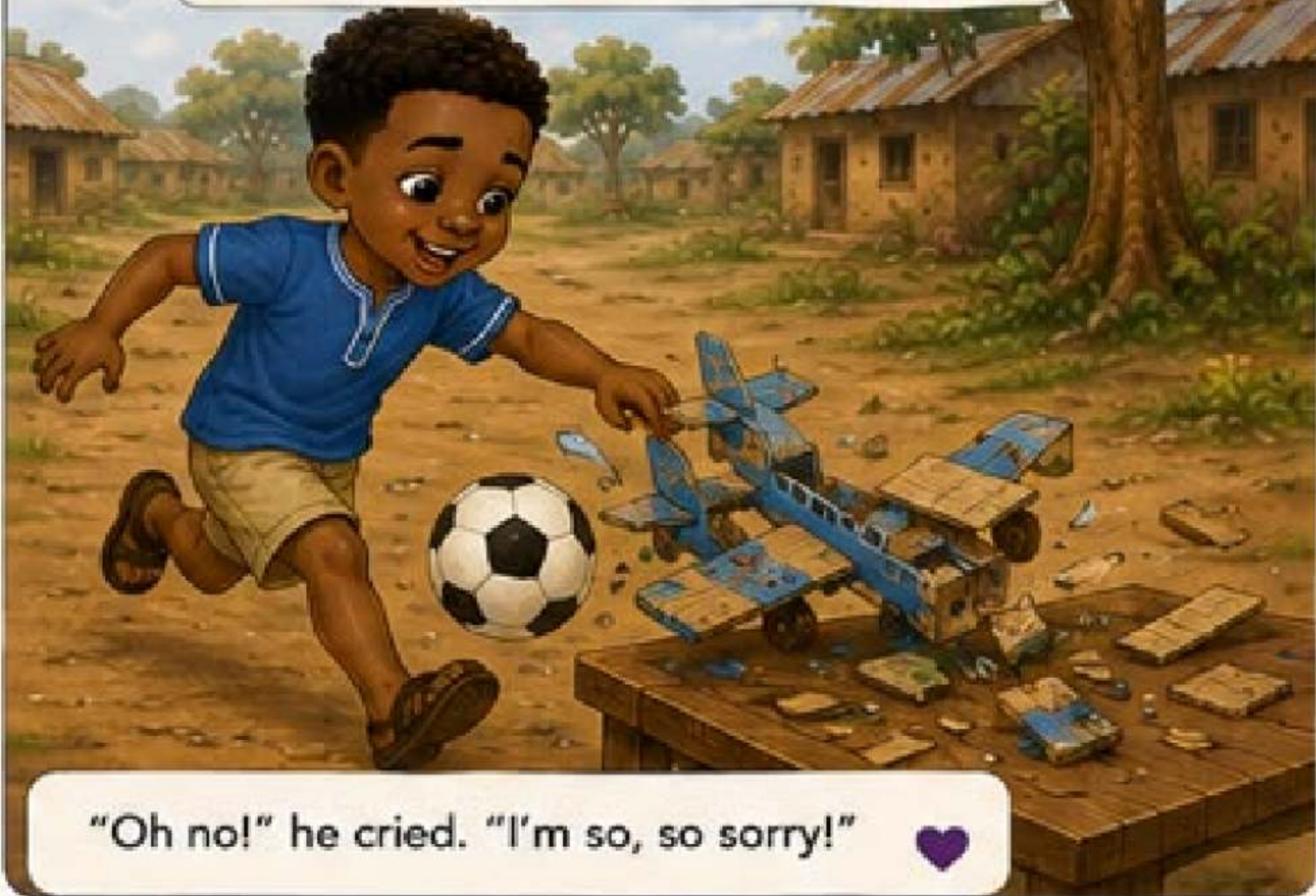


Ojochide and Ene continued working on their airplane. They added stronger wings and bright colours.

"Teamwork makes our airplane even better!" Ojochide said.



Just then, David came running with a ball.
He didn't see the airplane.



"Oh no!" he cried. "I'm so, so sorry!"



Ojochide's heart felt the pain again. She took a deep breath and remembered what Grandma taught her.

"Forgiveness does not mean what happened was okay, but I can choose peace in my heart."

"Lord, give me the strength to forgive," she prayed silently.



Ojochide looked at David and smiled gently.

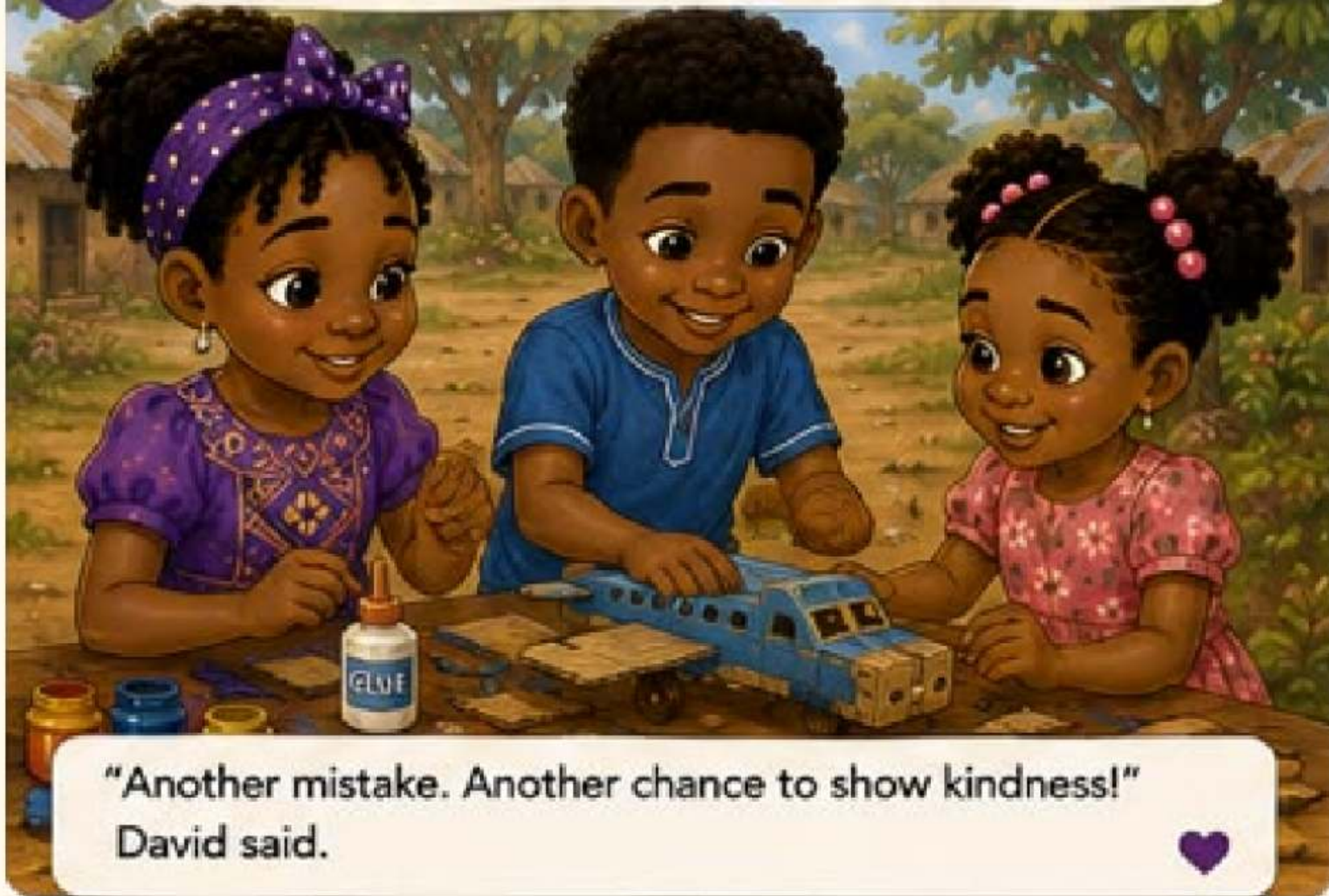
"I forgive you,
David. We all
make mistakes."

David's face brightened. "Thank you, Ojochide!"
Ene also smiled. "Thank you for forgiving him."



17

The three friends worked together to fix the airplane.



"Another mistake. Another chance to show kindness!"
David said.

6

When they finished, the airplane flew better than ever!

18



Forgiveness is Powerful!

- ♥ It heals hearts.
- ♥ It builds peace.
- ♥ It gives everyone a second chance.
- ♥ That's how Jesus loves us!



Chapter Five: The Gift of Forgiveness



17 Ojochide looks to the evening sky with a peaceful heart.

That evening, Ojochide sat with Grandma beneath the mango tree. She understood that forgiveness was not weakness, not pretending, and not accepting wrong behaviour. It was choosing not to let anger become the boss of her heart. "I will pray. I will remember God's forgiveness. I will choose peace."

OJOCHIDE'S LESSON

A forgiving heart is a peaceful heart.

Ojochide's Big Lesson

Forgiveness • Healing • Peace

Forgiveness does not erase what happened. It does not mean the hurt was not real. Forgiveness means choosing to release anger, give the hurt to God, and make room in your heart for peace.

Sometimes forgiveness is a choice before it becomes a feeling. And sometimes, we need God's help to make that choice.

Remember

Forgiving someone does not always mean trusting them immediately.

If someone continues to hurt you, tell a trusted adult and make wise choices.

Bible Verse & Faith Reflection

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

— Ephesians 4:32

Think with Ojochide

- What does forgiveness mean to you?
- What can you do when you are angry?
- How can you tell a trusted adult when something is wrong?
- Why does forgiveness not mean that wrong behaviour was okay?
- How can prayer help you choose peace?

Let's Talk About It

A conversation for children, families, and teachers

- 1 Why was Ojochide angry with Ene?
- 2 Why was the airplane special to Ojochide?
- 3 What did Ene do after breaking the airplane?
- 4 What did Grandma teach Ojochide about forgiveness?
- 5 Does forgiving someone mean that what they did was okay?
- 6 Why was forgiveness difficult for Ojochide?
- 7 How did Ojochide feel after she forgave Ene?
- 8 What did Ojochide learn when David accidentally damaged the airplane?
- 9 What can you do when someone hurts you and forgiveness feels difficult?
- 10 How can you ask God to help you forgive?

Ojochide's Forgiveness Challenge

Stop • Pray • Forgive • Choose Peace

Think of one person who has hurt your feelings. You do not have to pretend that you were not hurt. Instead, ask God to help you respond wisely.

- ☐ Stop and breathe when I feel angry. _____
- ☐ Pray before I respond. _____
- ☐ Choose kind and honest words. _____
- ☐ Ask God to help me forgive. _____
- ☐ Tell a trusted adult if I need help. _____

A Prayer for Forgiveness

Dear Jesus, sometimes people hurt my feelings and I become angry. Please help me forgive others just as You forgive me. Help me let go of anger and choose love, kindness, and peace. Give me wisdom to make good choices and a heart that follows You. Amen.

The Hidden Dove Challenge

Can you find the little dove?

Ojochide has hidden a little dove somewhere in the story. The dove is a reminder of peace.
Look carefully as you read.



I found the dove on page:

Remember:

A forgiving heart is a peaceful heart.

- ☐ Story page 1
- ☐ Story page 2
- ☐ Story page 3
- ☐ Story page 4
- ☐ Story page 5
- ☐ Story page 6
- ☐ Story page 7
- ☐ Story page 8

Activity Time

Draw It • Colour It • Act It Out



Draw It

Draw Ojochide and Ene rebuilding their airplane. Then draw a big heart above them. Inside the heart, write: "I Choose to Forgive."

Colour It

Colour your picture using your favourite colours.

Act It Out

With a friend, act out the story of Ojochide and Ene. Talk together about how each person felt.

Ojochide's Forgiveness Promise

Say it. Believe it. Practise it.

I will choose to forgive because Jesus first forgave me.

I will forgive when _____

I will choose peace over _____

I will show God's love by _____

Today and every day, I choose _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

My Promise

A forgiving heart is a peaceful heart.

Growing in Faith with Ojochide

Bonus Faith Journal • Reflection

What Ojochide learned

- God loves me and forgives me.
- I can talk honestly about my feelings.
- Prayer helps me respond wisely.
- Forgiveness can make room for peace.
- Forgiving someone does not mean ignoring unsafe behaviour.
- I can ask a trusted adult for help.
- Kindness and wisdom can work together.

My reflection

Ojochide's Faith Confession

Say it. Believe it. Grow in it.

- I believe God loves me.
- I believe God hears my prayers.
- I believe God forgives me.
- I will talk about my feelings instead of holding anger inside.
- I will ask God for wisdom.
- I will choose kindness and peace.
- I will forgive when forgiveness is difficult.
- I will tell a trusted adult when I need help.
- I will grow in God's Word every day.

I choose to live like Jesus.

With God's help, my heart can grow in peace and compassion.

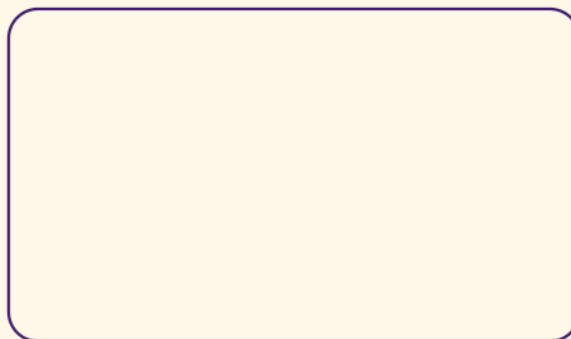
Memory Verse

Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

Draw a heart here.



What can you remember about forgiveness this week?

Let's Pray

A simple prayer for a peaceful heart

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving me and forgiving me.

Help me when someone hurts my feelings.

Teach me to talk honestly, pray, and make wise choices.

Help me release anger and choose peace.

Give me courage to forgive and wisdom to stay safe.

Help me show kindness and love, just as You teach me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

“A forgiving heart is a peaceful heart.”

Try This This Week

Forgiveness in everyday life

- ☐ 1. Stop and pray when I feel angry. _____
- ☐ 2. Use kind words. _____
- ☐ 3. Listen before I answer. _____
- ☐ 4. Tell a trusted adult when I need help. _____
- ☐ 5. Forgive a small mistake. _____
- ☐ 6. Do one act of kindness. _____
- ☐ 7. Read a Bible story with my family. _____

Holiday Bible Adventure • 30-Day Tracker

During a holiday or school break, keep growing in God's Word: READ • DISCOVER • REMEMBER • PRAY • LIVE IT. Colour one leaf or tick one box each day you read your Bible.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Parent & Teacher Guide

Helping little hearts learn forgiveness

- Before reading: Ask children what they think forgiveness means.
- During reading: Pause when Ojochide feels angry and ask what she might be feeling.
- After reading: Talk about the difference between forgiveness, pretending, and accepting unsafe behaviour.
- Remind children that they can talk to a trusted adult when someone hurts them.
- Practise the memory verse together.
- Use the role-play to explore feelings, apologies, boundaries, and peaceful responses.
- Invite children to complete the Forgiveness Challenge, Hidden Dove, Faith Confession, and Promise.
- Pray together and praise honest communication, kindness, wisdom, and thoughtful choices.

Important reminder

Forgiveness and safety can live together. Encourage children to seek trusted adult support when needed.

Parent & Teacher Notes

Observe • Encourage • Pray • Follow up

Child's name: _____

Date / class: _____

What did the child understand?

What did the child say about forgiveness?

Prayer / follow-up notes

About the Author

Christiana Iye Stephen is a public health professional, writer, and creator of The Ojochide Series. Through the Ojochide books, she brings together simple storytelling, Christian values, African settings, and practical lessons that children can understand and carry into everyday life. She believes stories can help children build strong hearts, thoughtful minds, and a lasting love for God and others.

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Keep Growing. Keep Believing.

Ojochide has learned about faith. She has learned about compassion. Now she is learning that forgiveness can heal a hurting heart.

Small hearts can learn big lessons when they trust God.

Every book is a new step.

Book 1 • Faith Book 2 • Compassion Book 3 • Forgiveness

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THE OJOCHIDE

ith. Growing Character.

A forgiving heart is a peaceful heart.

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