Forgiveness and Reconciliation
Recommended Reading and Viewing

Books:

This collection of family nights is geared to families with children aged 3-13. It covers a variety of themes including peacemaking, racism, sexism, stewardship, the media, the environment, and family unity. In addition to the session “Forgive and Forget” that Activity #2 is based on there are several other family nights on conflict resolution and building family harmony.
Questions for reflection:
1. Would our family like to start the custom of having a regular “family night”?
2. When would we have it?
3. What are activities that everyone in our family likes to do, regardless of age?

Strength to Love by Martin Luther King, Jr. (Fortress Press, 2010)
Martin Luther King, Jr. is no stranger to Americans. This book is a collection of many of his writings, sermons, and letters showing the principles that undergirded his commitment to nonviolence.
Questions for reflection:
1. Do I have any close friends of another race? If not, why not?
2. Am I inclined to trust and forgive more easily when the person looks like me, is educated, or has a middle class lifestyle?
3. What limits do I put on my love?

Movies:

Les Miserables
Les Mis is a novel, a play, and a movie. It starts with the compelling story of a bishop who not only forgives the ex-convict who steals from him but helps him establish a respectable life which leads to his own ability to sacrifice for others.
Questions for reflection:
1. Have you ever been robbed? Was justice done?
2. For whom would you sacrifice your life? (your family? your faith? an innocent person? a guilt person?)

Dead Man Walking
This book and movie is the story of a nun who ministered to a man on death row. It does not purport to exonerate the murderer but rather show the compassion and friendship that one can have even for the guilty.

Karate Kid II
The story of a young man who finds alternatives to violence and revenge under the tutelage of a wise mentor karate instructor.