



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:23-35

Play a game or two



- Use a ball or any throwing prop (the potato) for this game. Have everyone stand in a circle. Tell the children about a time when you forgave someone for something. Toss it to the child on your right and say, "Hot potato!" Now it's that person's turn to share with everyone how they forgave someone. Continue to 'pass the potato', sharing their stories. Once the "potato" lands in your hands, you can make up other things to say. Try a topic a little hotter, like, "This person that I must forgive was a bully." This will cover some challenges you've had to overcome.
- Ask children to write on paper strips some sins that they have committed this week, such as lying, disobeying parents or being unkind. Teach them to pray sincerely for God's forgiveness and role-play asking the offended person for forgiveness. Upon receiving forgiveness, the child screws up her sin, stands at a throwing line and tosses the paper ball in the dustbin to illustrate forgiving and forgetting.
- Prepare 1-2 bags or backpacks full of heavy items, such as canned food or books. Either individually or in teams give each child a bag and explain it represents holding a grudge (not forgiving someone). At the other end of the room place the sign GOD. The children move as quickly as they can to GOD, give him a burden (can or book) and return to the team. Each child continues to carry his load to God until s/he is burden-free. The first person/team to get rid of all their burdens wins. Talk about how much easier and more comfortable it was to ask for forgiveness and get rid of burdens.

And now watch the video link

<https://youtu.be/AbBZ67fYMDE>



Grown ups, take 5 minute
and grab a coffee!



Question to talk about



- Jesus tells this parable in response to Peter's question. What did Peter ask?
- So how often are we supposed to forgive someone?
- You think seventy times seven may be a lot, but when two sevens are used in the New Testament, it means infinity. That means we have to forgive forever. Why do you think Jesus didn't let us have a specific number?
- Do we really want to be forgiven by God the way we may forgive others?
- Why is forgiveness so important?
- Who can you forgive today? (Don't forget yourself!)

What's it all about?



This parable is about forgiveness.

How do you want God to forgive you? Do you want him to keep reminding you of the sin? Do you want him to keep a record of the number of times you have asked forgiveness? No, we want God to forgive completely and to give us a clean slate on which to start all over again. This is that way we should forgive others.

How much forgiveness do you want from God? How often? Do you want him to forgive even your worst sin? Do you want him to forgive you even if you fall and do it again? How many times? That is how much and how often we should forgive others.

No matter how hard, and no matter how big the sin, if we are willing to expect and accept God's forgiveness for what we've done wrong, we need to show the same compassion to those that don't treat us well. God leads by example and we should follow that example and try to live a Christ like life, just as he did.

It's not easy, but no-one ever said being a Christian was!

Forgive others
as quickly as
you expect
God to forgive
you.

Can you learn this verse (Ephesians 4 v 32) by heart?

Put it to music, make up actions, turn it into a rap or just say it over and over until it sticks!



compassionate means to show understanding and concern

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

Ephesians 4:32

Choose an activity:

Design a game

Design a game to play where doing things wrong sends you back or misses a go and showing forgiveness moves you on or gives rewards. Play with the family.



Act out

Divide the story into four scenes: The first is the servant before the king; the second is the unforgiving servant demanding payment from the other servant; the third scene involves the other servants informing the king of the actions of the first servant; and the fourth is the unforgiving servant before the king again being punished. Act out the scenes thinking about the good and bad roles and what the story teaches us about Jesus

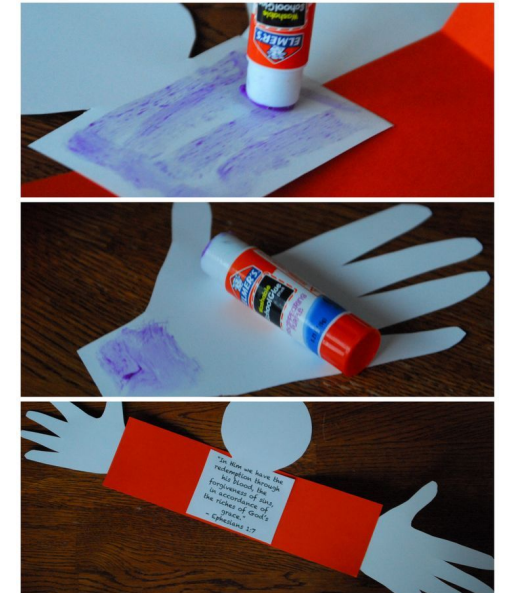
Poem or song

Write a heartfelt poem or song about forgiveness, try to include the line, 'forgive them 70 times 7 times' to remind you about what Jesus said. Be as creative and inventive as you can and then share it with your family



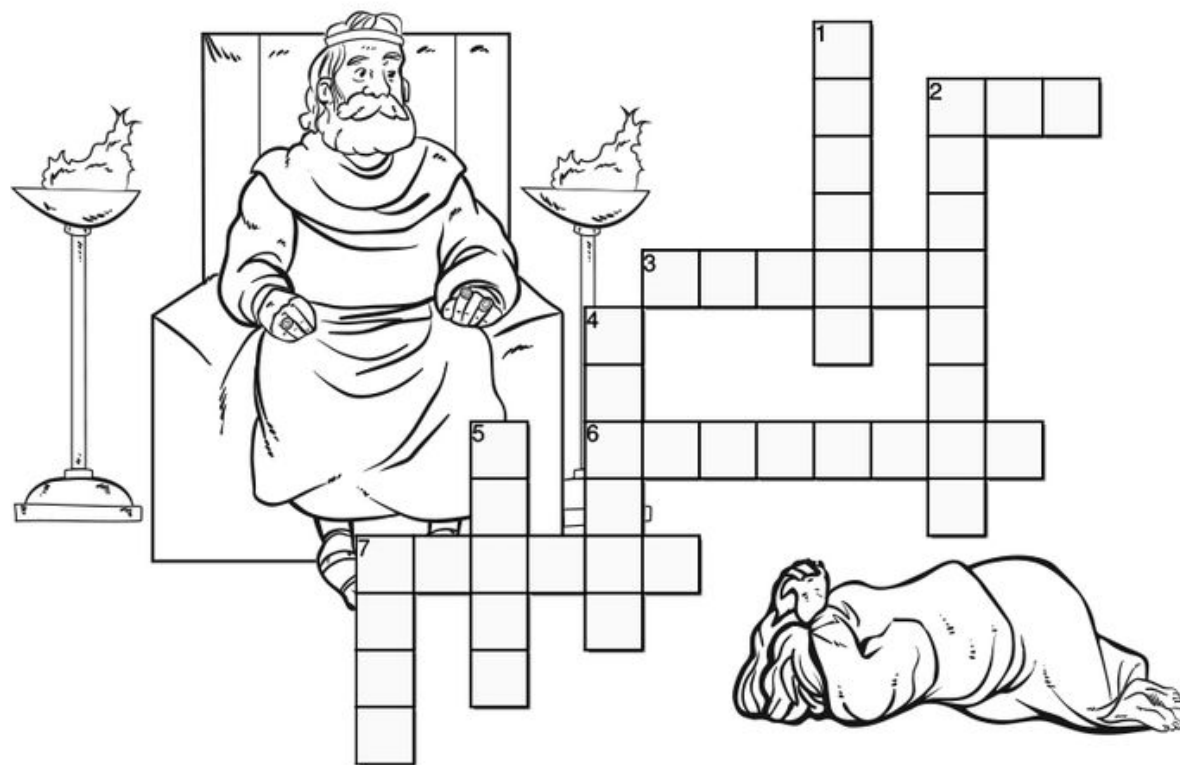
Forgiving arms

On a strip of paper about 30cm by 6cm write out the memory verse from Ephesians 4 v 32. Draw around your hands and cut them out. Stick them to the narrow ends of the strip and then add a circle for the head on the middle of the strip and draw on your face.



THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Matthew 18:21-35



Across

2. The servant owed the king ____ thousand bags of gold.
3. When he saw his fellow servant, he grabbed him by the ____, demanding that he repay his debt.
6. The king had compassion on the servant and ____ all of his debt.
7. Because the servant could not pay back his debt, the king wanted to turn him and his family into ____.

Down

1. The unforgiving servant had his fellow servant thrown into ____, until his debt could be re-paid.
2. The king was furious and threw the servant into jail, and had him ____ until he could repay every last cent.
4. "You ____ servant," the king said. "I canceled all of your debt because you begged me to."
5. The servant's fellow servant owed him a ____ amount of money.
7. The king expected the servant to treat his fellow servant in the ____ way.

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



FORGIVENESS IS
NOT AN
OCCASIONAL ACT.
IT IS A
PERMANENT
ATTITUDE



Songs and actions to join in with

(Come on , you know you want to!!)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZ_wCZ1gPN4

Forgive one another

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIqEDBPIBVo>

Our God is a great big God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CShCK9yjbIA>

Super wonderful

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ2zXc_9Q00

One Way!