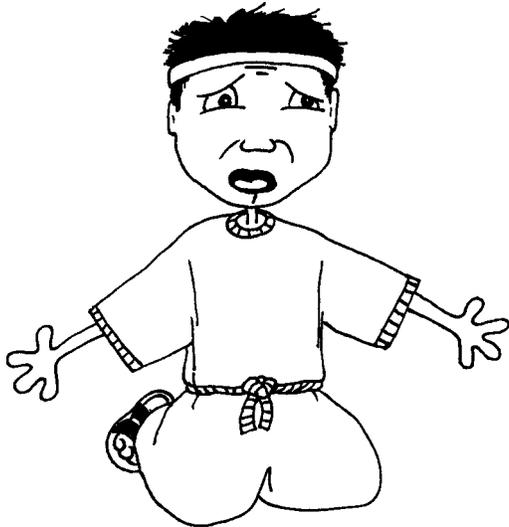


The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35



Servant 1 Begging



King

The Story

Introduction:

What if one of your friends or your brother or sister took your place in line? Or perhaps you color crayon? Or sat down first on the chair you wanted to sit on? Or maybe took the last cookie? What would you do? Would it be hard to forgive them? Should you forgive them? Today we are going to learn about a man who had the chance to forgive. I want you to all listen very carefully and tell me if the man forgave his neighbor.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Let us receive Your Word today with listening ears and open hearts. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to take away our sin. Help us show our love for You by forgiving those who sin against us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Have the students act out the story. King - bathrobe and paper crown; Servant 1 & 2; Jailers - sword and shield made of cardboard; Group of Servants. Tell the story first using the paraphrased version below. Then retell the story stopping at the appropriate times to direct the students in their roles.)



While Jesus lived on this earth He told many stories to His disciples and those who followed Him. These stories were used to teach Jesus' followers about the Bible. These stories were called parables. (Students can repeat this word slowly along with the teacher.) Today we are going to hear one of these stories that Jesus told.

One day there was a king who had servants who owed him money. One of these servants owed him a very large amount of money. He owed the king 10,000 talents, that is equal to millions of dollars today.

The servant did not have the money to pay. Because he could not pay the debt the king decided to sell the man's wife, children and all the servant owned. The servant got on his knees and begged the king saying, "Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all."

The king felt sorry for him and said he would not have to pay back any of the money. The king cancelled the debt.

That servant left the king and went out and found a fellow servant that owed him money. That other servant only owed the first servant 100 denarii, which is a few dollars. This was a very small debt compared to what he had owed the king. He grabbed his fellow servant and began to choke him demanding, "Pay back what you owe me!"

This other servant got down on his knees and began to beg saying, "Be patient with me and I will pay you back."

The servant refused to listen. He had his fellow servant thrown into prison until he would be able to pay back the few dollars.

Other servants saw what this servant did to his fellow servant and they went and

told the king. The king was angry. The king said to the servant, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all your debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" The king now had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

After Jesus was done with the story He said that this is how our Heavenly Father will treat us if we do not forgive our brothers.

This story was told by Jesus in answer to a question that He had been asked by Peter His disciple. Who was Peter? (Peter was the disciple who had walked on water toward Jesus.) Today the question Peter asked Jesus was, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Peter wanted to know how many times he should forgive his brother and he thought maybe up to seven times. That seemed like a lot of times to forgive one person.

(How many times do you think we should forgive those who sin against us? More than seven times? Less than seven times?)

Jesus answered him, "I do not say to you up to seven times, but seventy times seven." (How many of you know what seventy times seven is? This equals 490!) Was Jesus saying that you should count every time you forgive your brother and when you get to the 491st time you should quit?

Do you think Jesus really wanted you to count every time you forgave someone? Jesus was saying that you should not count the number of times you forgive but you should always forgive no matter how many times someone sins against you. Forgiveness should be without an end.

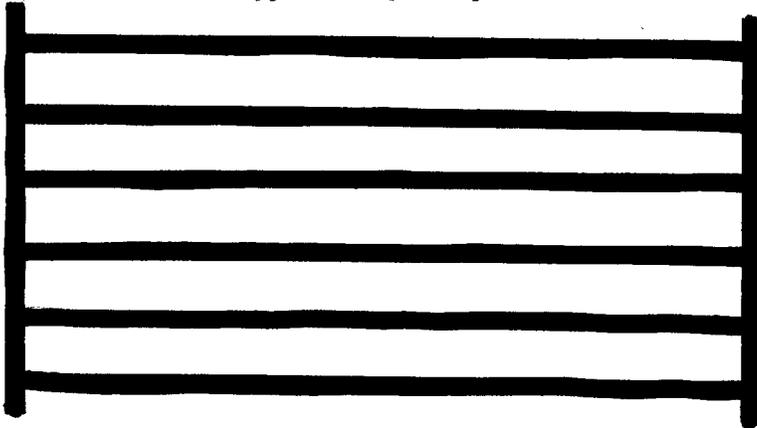
Jesus told a parable about the forgiveness of sins.

Activity One - Answer these questions together in class.

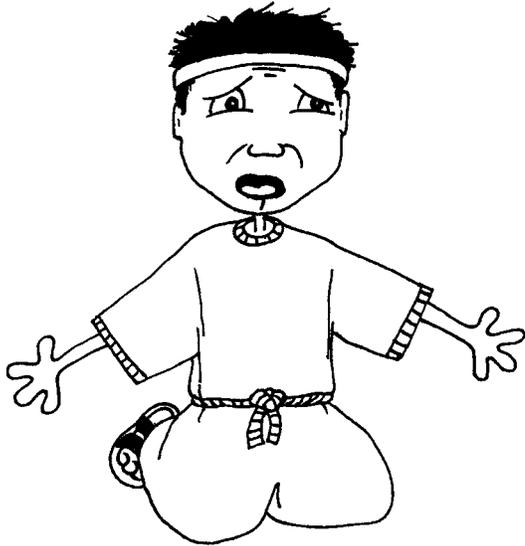
1. What did the one servant not do to his fellow servant?
2. What did he do to the servant instead?
3. What should have the servant done?
4. Who is our fellow brother?
5. How many times should we forgive them?
6. Why should we forgive?
7. How many of our sins did Jesus (the King) forgive?
8. What did we do to get this forgiveness?
9. How do we receive this forgiveness?

Activity Two - Have the students color, cut out and glue the figures, found on pages 3 and 4, to popsicle sticks. As the students are working on the figures, the teacher could discuss and review the story. If time allows the teacher should give some of the students a chance to retell the story using their own figures.

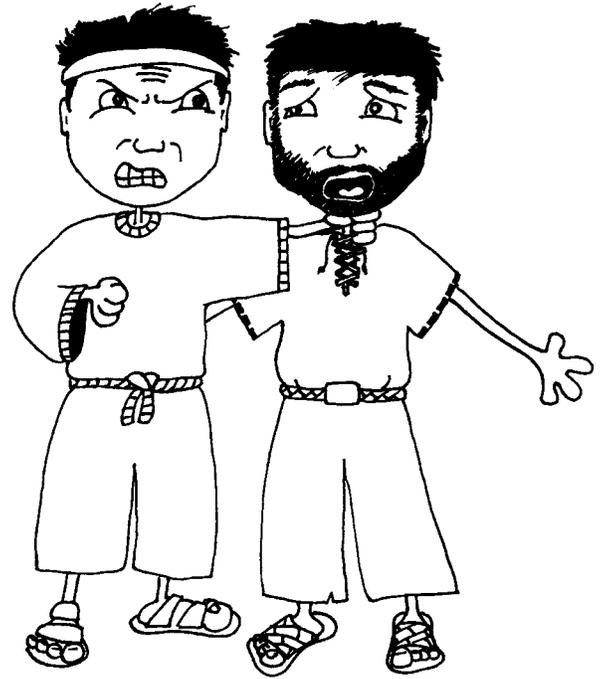
Jail Bars - Copy on transparency material



King



Servant 1 Begging



Servant 1 Choking Servant 2

We are to forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven us.

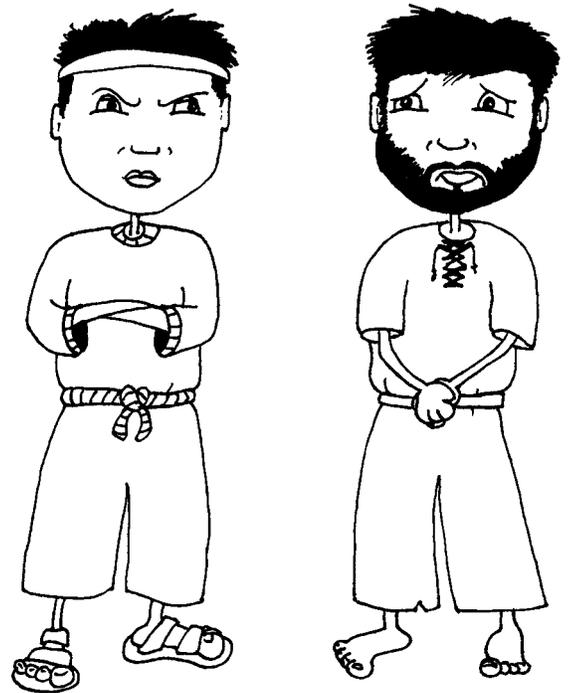
Passages

Luke 23:34 - Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Matthew 5:44 - But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Hymn - TLH #412 v. 1

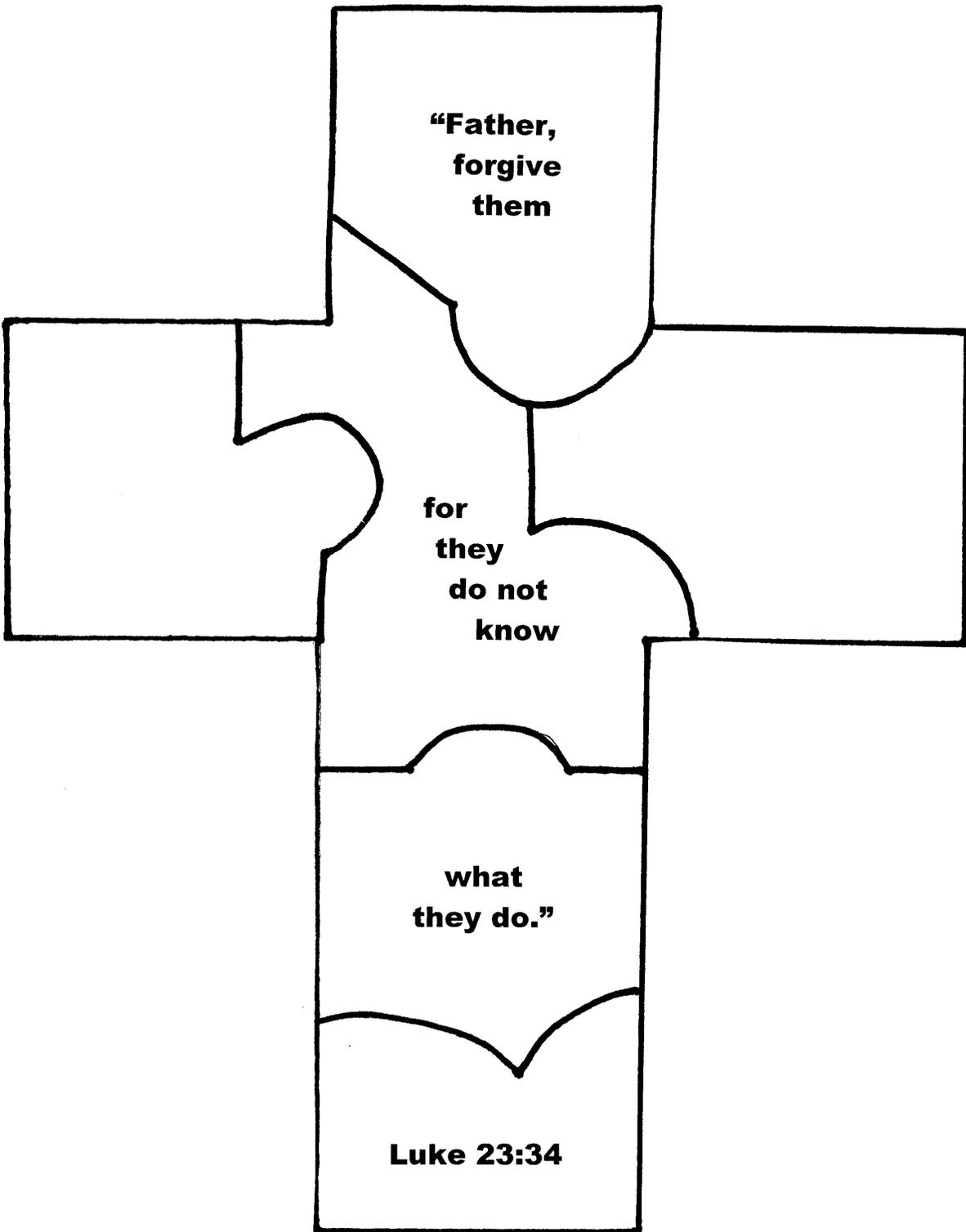
May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living Way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.



Servant 1

Servant 2

Activity Three - Color and cut out the puzzle pieces. Place them together in the correct order. Use this to help you memorize the verse.



Prayer - The Lord's Prayer