

**STORY**

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to use Your Word to bring sinners to repentance that heaven's door may be opened to them. Let me reflect Thy gracious forgiveness to all who live with me in this sinful world. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*take account* - examine in detail

*talent* - a very large sum of money-10,000 talents equals millions of dollars

*compassion* - have and show mercy

**OUTER AIM**

The Lord reveals a most forgiving heart in contrast to the hardness of human nature.

**INNER AIM**

Teach the children to pray the Fifth Petition with Christian understanding and deep concern for those who sin against them.

**BACKGROUND**

*Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 2, pp. 225 ff.*

In the verses preceding this Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, the Savior had been speaking to the disciples about their forgiving and retaining sins (the use of the Ministry of the Keys). Peter quickly came with the question, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" In response to that very human question-how often-Jesus tells the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.

vs. 22 Seventy times seven: an unlimited number

vs. 23 take account: see how servants had met their responsibilities

vs. 24 began to reckon: began to look into or examine in detail

vs. 25 a servant whose debt was far beyond what he could ever pay

vs. 26 the servant was unaware of his inability to pay

vs. 27 the king forgave

vs. 28 100 pence: how small in comparison to 10,000 talents

vs. 33-35 contrast between merciful king and demanding servant.



## **STUDENT PRAYER TLH #412 v. 1**

May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill  
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.

## **PRESENTATION**

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts, including extra details found in each account. Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

## **APPLICATION**

- Reflect on the unbounded daily love that our God has shown us by forgiving us our countless sins without any merit or worthiness in us. "Forgive us our trespasses . . ." (Fifth Petition.)
- Reflect on the mercy and grace of the Lord in forgiving the sins of those who sin against us, not only seven times but seventy times seven. "As we forgive those who trespass against us." (Fifth Petition.)

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

### **Lower**

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

### **Middle**

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

Matt 5:44 - "Love your enemies, bless those that curse you, do good to those that hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you."

### **Upper**

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

Matt 5:44 - "Love your enemies, bless those that curse you, do good to those that hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you."

John 20:23 - "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (Ministry of the Keys)

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Forgive Our Sins, Lord, We Implore - TLH #458 v. 6

Yea, As I Live, Jehovah Saith - TLH 331 vs 1 and 3