

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)

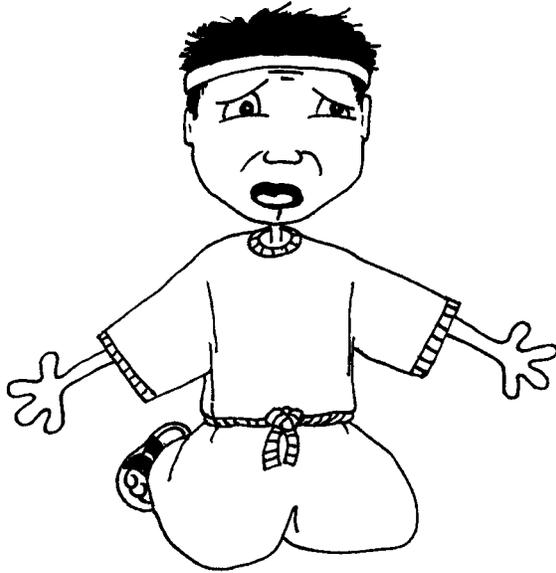
HYMN CHOICES

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

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

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 your 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 (Have the students repeat each marked section during the prayer.) Dear Father in Heaven/ Help us to listen carefully/ so we can learn more from Your Word./ Help us to learn how to forgive/ just like You forgave me./ In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prior to lesson the teacher should color, cut out and glue pieces of felt on the flannel graph figures. These figures can be used to tell the lesson.



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 canceled 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 the first servant 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 that 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 wants you to count every time you forgive 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.

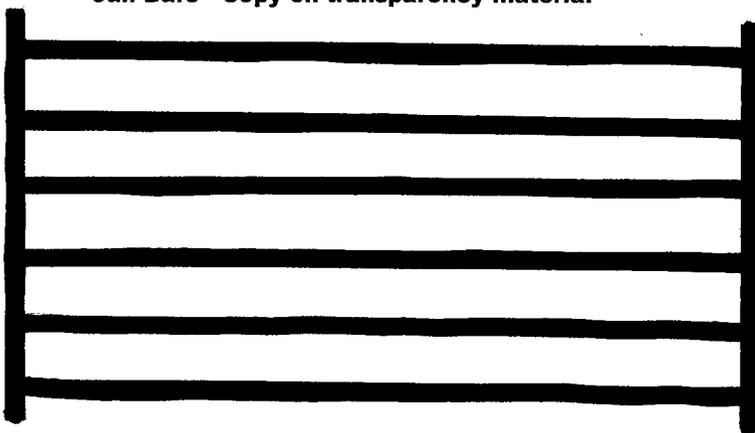
Activity One - Answer these questions together in class.

1. Did the servant forgive his fellow servant?
2. What did he do to the servant?
3. What should the servant have 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?

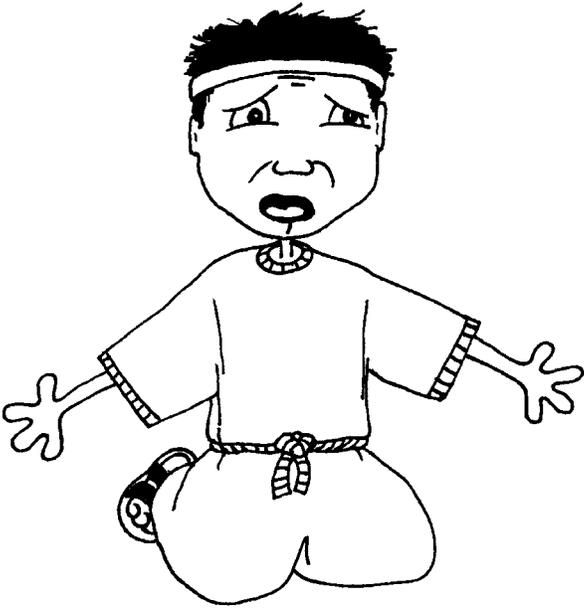
Activity Two

- Have the students color, cut out and glue the figures 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.

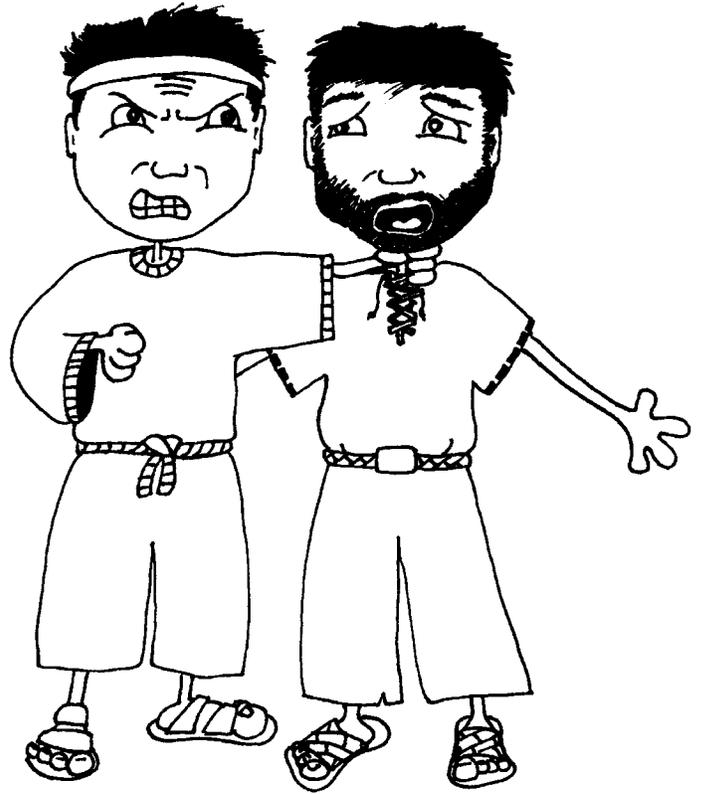
Jail Bars - Copy on transparency material



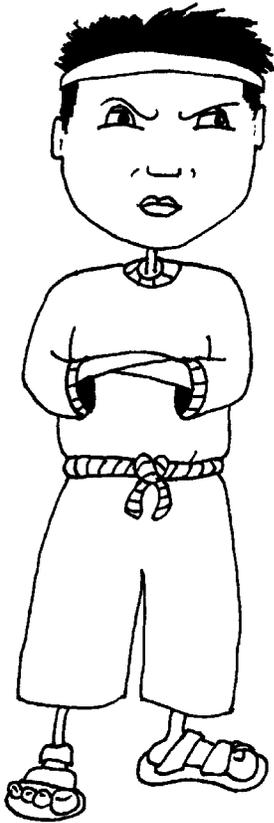
King



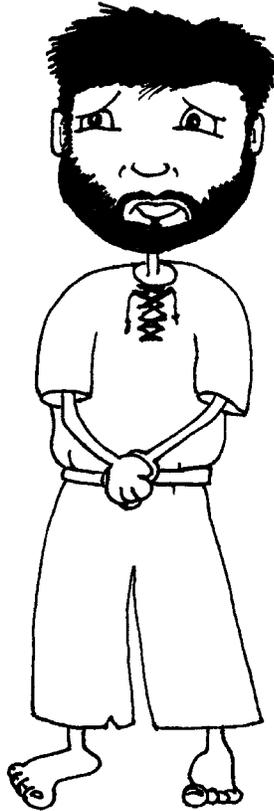
Servant 1 Begging



Servant 1 Choking Servant 2



Servant 1

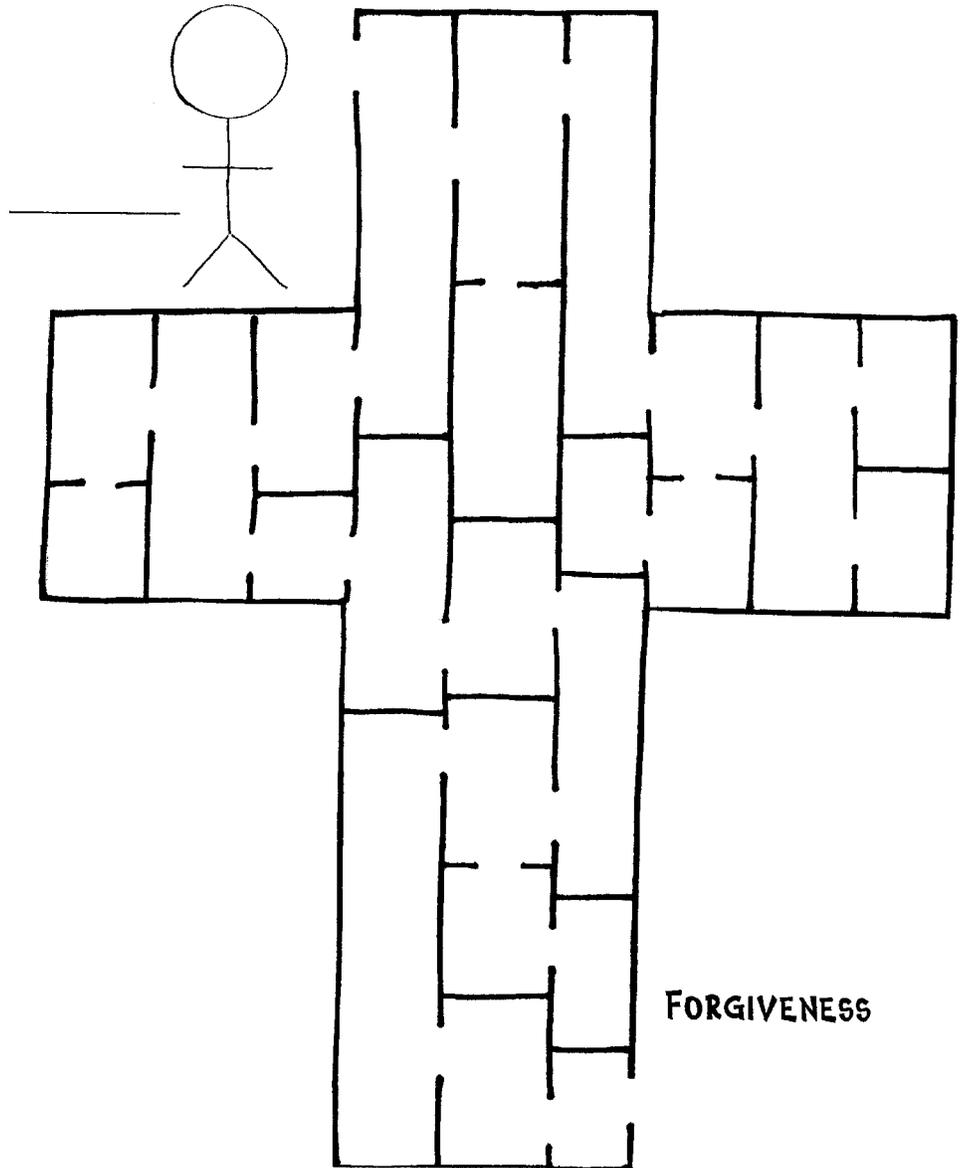


Servant 2

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

Activity Three -

Put your name on the line by the stick person and draw a face. Try to find a path to forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ.



Passage

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

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.

or "Forgiveness Is For Me" the tune "The B-I-B-L-E"

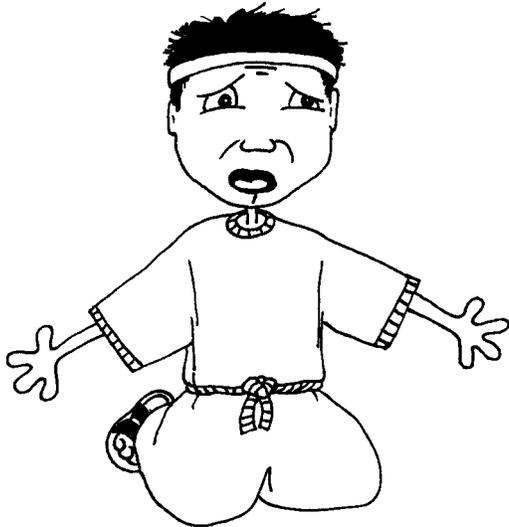
Forgiveness is for me,
If I a Christian be,
God has forgiven all my sins,
Paid my debt for free.

Because of what He's done,
Through the death of His Son,
I will forgive those who hurt me,
A life of love begun.

Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

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.)



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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?"

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

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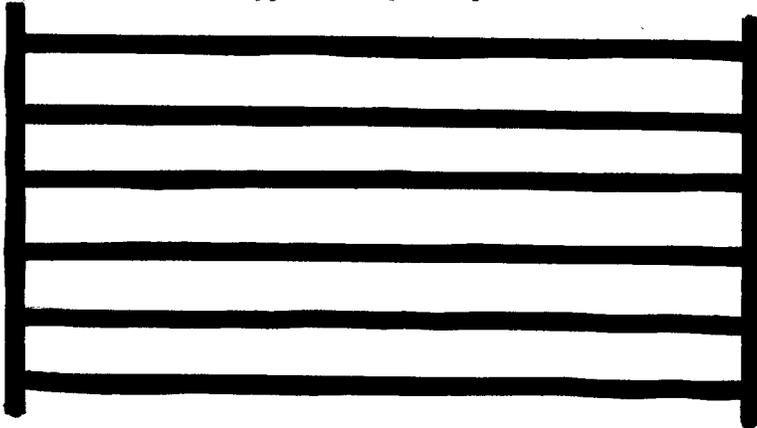
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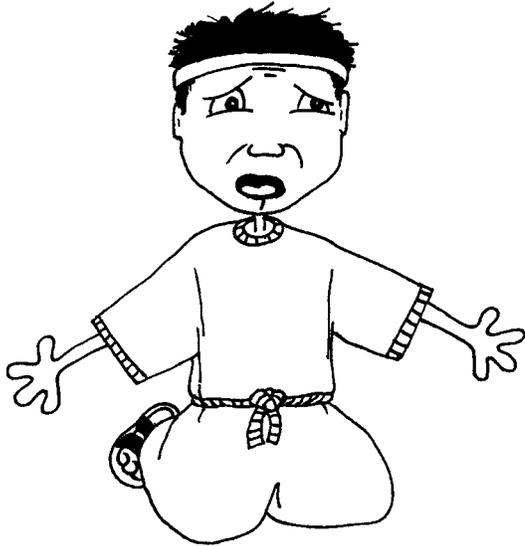
1. What did the one servant not do to his fellow servant?
2. What did he do to the servant instead?
3. What should have the servant done?
4. Who is our fellow brother?
5. How many times should we forgive them?
6. Why should we forgive?
7. How many of our sins did Jesus (the King) forgive?
8. What did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

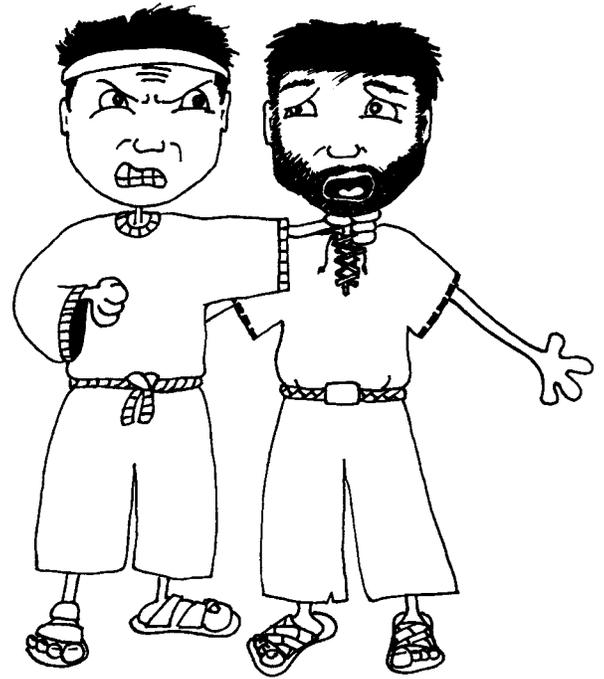
Jail Bars - Copy on transparency material



King



Servant 1 Begging



Servant 1 Choking Servant 2

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

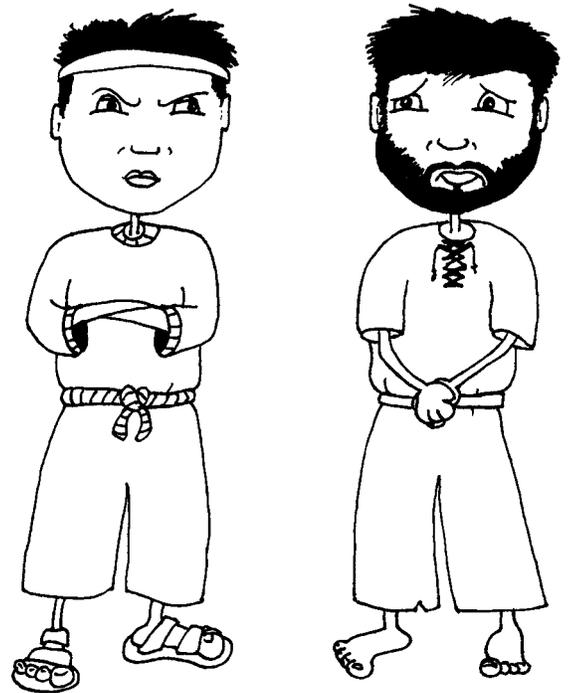
Passages

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

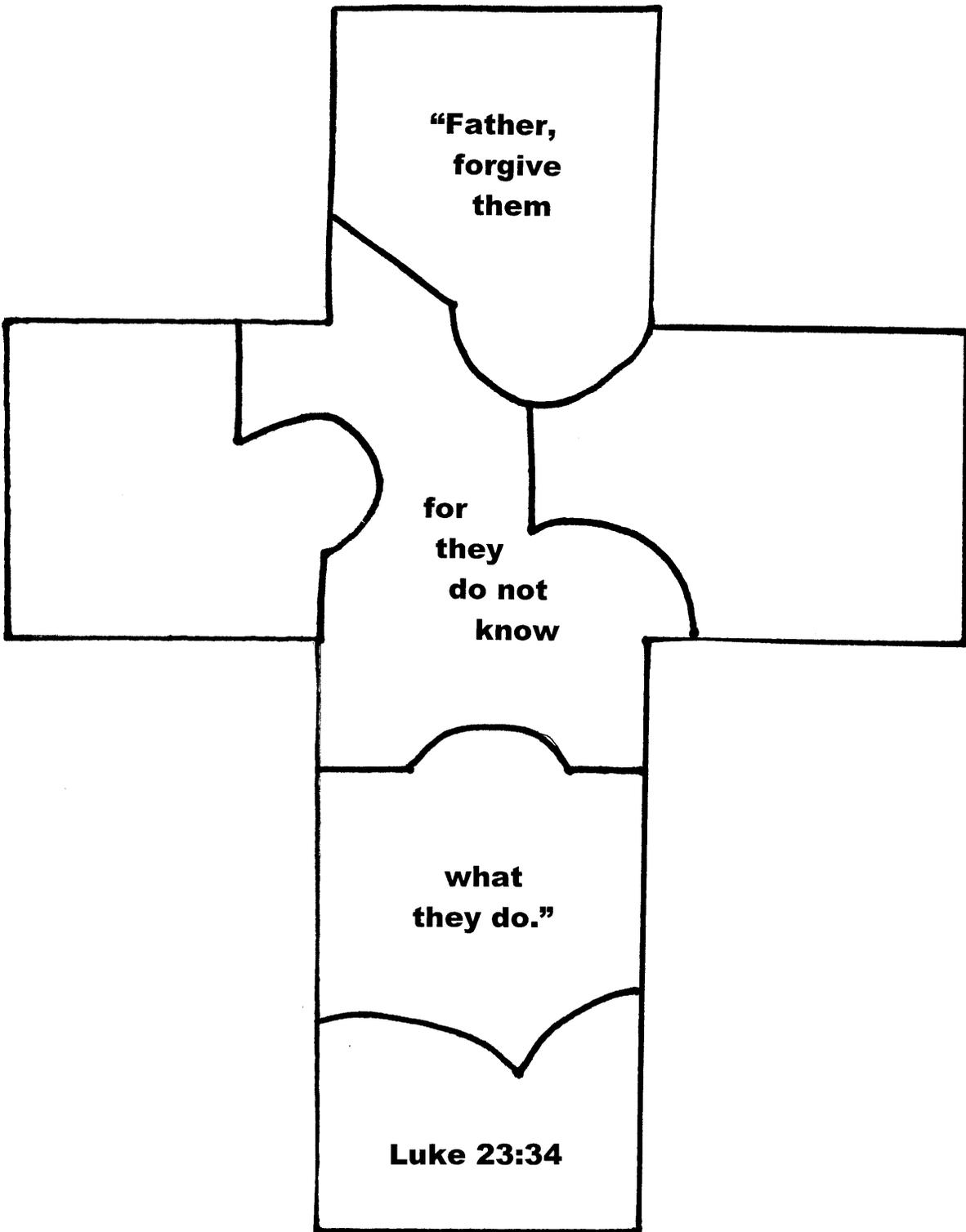
May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living Way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.



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.



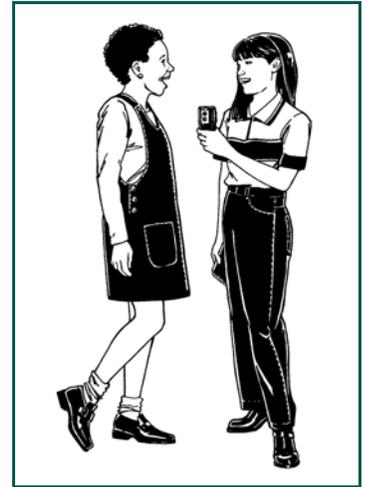
Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

What if your friend lied to you and you found out about it?
What if your friend told someone else your secret?
What if that friend made fun of you or hurt you in some way?
How would you feel toward him or her?
Would it be easy to forgive him or her?
What if your friend kept sinning against you? Should you still keep forgiving him or her?

In our parable today, Peter asked Jesus a similar question. Jesus told Peter the parable of the unforgiving servant. In this parable Jesus demonstrates how the Lord reveals a most forgiving heart in contrast to the hardness of human nature.



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Bless our study of Your Word today and help us to apply the lessons we will learn through our study. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins, even though we do not deserve Your mercy and forgiveness. Let Your love and forgiveness motivate us to forgive and love others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 18:21-38

Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

{22} Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

{23} "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. {24} "And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. {25} "But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

{26} "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' {27} "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

{28} "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

{29} "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

{30} "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. {31} "So when his fellow servants



saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

{32} "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. {33} 'Should you not also have had compassion on your

fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' {34} "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

{35} "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable about the forgiveness of sins.

What the Story Tells Us - You may wish to have the class act out the parable. Go over these discussion questions.

1. How many times did Peter think he should forgive his brother?
2. What was Jesus' response to Peter?
3. What was Jesus really saying by this response?
4. In the parable, who represents the king?
5. What did the king do for the servant who owed him a debt?
6. What has God done for each of us?
7. Did we earn this forgiveness?
8. When this servant found a fellow servant who owed him a debt, the servant was not merciful or forgiving. Did this show that he was appreciative of the king's mercy in canceling his debt?
9. When the king found out about how the servant treated his fellow servant, what did the king do?
10. The king asked the wicked servant, "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" What is the correct answer?
11. Why should we be willing and eager to forgive?
12. Who should we be willing and eager to forgive?

What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word that completes the sentence. One letter in each word has been given to you. Take these given letters and write them below to begin the passage that Jesus spoke on the cross.

1. The master F _ _ _ _ _ the servant his debt.
2. The servant owed his master 10,000 _ A _ _ _ _ _ .
3. _ _ T _ _ asked Jesus the question about forgiveness.
4. God wants us to forgive our brother from the H _ _ _ _ _ .
5. Peter thought we should forgive our neighbor _ E _ _ _ times.
6. The second servant owed a debt of a hundred _ _ _ _ R _ _ .
7. The wicked servant was _ _ F _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .
8. The king in the parable represents _ O _ .
9. The king sent the wicked servant into _ R _ _ _ _ _ .
10. When we are unforgiving it _ _ G _ _ _ God.
11. God has forgiven our _ I _ _ .
12. Forgiveness should be a daily part of our _ _ V _ _ .
13. We should forgive even our _ _ E _ _ _ _ .

UNFORGIVING
 ENEMIES
 GOD
 SINS
 FORGAVE
 HEART
 LIVES
 PRISON
 TALENTS
 PETER
 ANGERS
 DENARII
 SEVEN

"_____ , _____ them; for they do not know that they do."
 Luke 23:34

Passages

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.

The Fifth Petition © Sydow Catechism 2000

"And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
 What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look on our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are not worthy of things for which we are asking, neither have we deserved them. However, we ask that our Father would by His grace give us what we ask; even though we sin often every day and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. We, too, will from our hearts gladly forgive and do good to all those who sin against us.

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

Your Turn - WORD SEARCH - Find the words from the Word Box in the puzzle below. The words can go across, down, diagonal and backwards.

FORGIVE
DENARII
PETER
ENEMIES
PRISON
TALENTS
SINS
SERVANT
KING
DEBT

F	R	O	G	I	V	S	K	I	N	D
O	O	R	F	I	I	T	A	L	E	S
G	O	R	E	S	S	U	V	B	B	E
F	A	N	G	R	E	S	T	R	P	R
T	D	E	B	I	R	T	M	O	R	E
S	N	I	S	G	V	N	N	P	I	M
R	T	B	N	R	A	E	R	R	S	E
T	E	I	P	S	N	L	S	I	O	M
E	K	I	S	O	T	A	T	S	N	A
P	E	S	A	P	E	T	E	R	V	T
G	D	E	N	A	R	I	I	T	A	I
S	E	R	V	P	S	M	R	A	N	S
M	N	S	E	I	M	E	N	E	T	E

Hymn - TLH #458 v. 1, 6

Our Father, Thou in heav'n above,
 Who biddest us to dwell in love,
 As brethren of one family,
 To cry in ev'ry need to Thee,
 Teach us no thoughtless words to say,
 But from our inmost heart to pray.

Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
 Remove from us their burden sore,
 As we their trespasses forgive
 Who by offenses us do grieve.
 Thus let us dwell in charity
 And serve our brother willingly.

Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

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The Story - Matthew 18:21-38

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What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word that completes the sentence. One letter in each word has been given to you. Take these given letters and write them below to begin the passage that Jesus spoke on the cross.

1. The master F _____ the servant his debt.
2. The servant owed his master 10,000 __ A _____ .
3. ___ T ___ asked Jesus the question about forgiveness.
4. God wants us to forgive our brother from the H _____ .
5. Peter thought we should forgive our neighbor __ E _____ times.
6. The second servant owed a debt of a hundred _____ R _____ .
7. The wicked servant was ___ F _____ .
8. The king in the parable represents __ O _____ .
9. The king sent the wicked servant into __ R _____ .
10. When we are unforgiving it ___ G _____ God.
11. God has forgiven our __ I _____ .
12. Forgiveness should be a daily part of our ___ V _____ .
13. We should forgive even our ___ E _____ .

UNFORGIVING
 ENEMIES
 GOD
 SINS
 FORGAVE
 HEART
 LIVES
 PRISON
 TALENTS
 PETER
 ANGERS
 DENARII
 SEVEN

" _____ , _____ them; for they do not know that they do."
 Luke 23:34

Passages

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.

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

The Fifth Petition © Sydow Catechism 2000

"And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look on our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are not worthy of things for which we are asking, neither have we deserved them. However, we ask that our Father would by His grace give us what we ask; even though we sin often every day and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. We, too, will from our hearts gladly forgive and do good to all those who sin against us.

Your Turn - Draw the following picture below. A man carrying a huge burden on his back. the bag says "SINS AGAINST GOD". The man, however, is staring at a very small bag that he is holding in front of his face. This bag is labeled "MY BROTHER'S SINS AGAINST ME."

Tell how this picture demonstrates the truths of this lesson.

Hymn - TLH #458 v. 1, 6, 9

Our Father, Thou in heav'n above,
Who biddest us to dwell in love,
As brethren of one family,
To cry in ev'ry need to Thee,
Teach us no thoughtless words to say,
But from our inmost heart to pray.

Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
Remove from us their burden sore,
As we their trespasses forgive
Who by offenses us do grieve.
Thus let us dwell in charity
And serve our brother willingly.

Amen, that is, So shall it be.
Confirm our faith and hope in Thee
That we may doubt not, but believe
What here we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Thy name and at Thy word
We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!

Prayer - The Lord's Prayer