

WATCH this week's Bible Story Video on our website:
www.goodshepherdholmen.org/childrens-ministry

2nd-4th GRADES

READ this story: In your Bible: Matthew 18:21 - 35

Could you imagine if God had a limit for how many times he would forgive us?? We would really be in trouble if God had limits to the number of times he forgives us. We sin so many times, it is impossible to count the times we need forgiveness! When Jesus was talking with his disciples about the importance of forgiveness, Peter asked Jesus "how many times should I forgive another believer who sins against me over and over again?" Is seven times enough? I imagine Peter felt he was being pretty generous with his suggestion of forgiving someone 7 times. However, Jesus replied, "No, not just 7 times but 77 times". Now that sounds like a lot of times doesn't it? But really, the point Jesus was making is that we should keep forgiving a person over and over again, no matter how many times they sin against us.

To stress the importance of forgiveness, Jesus told a parable. Do you remember what a parable is? It is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. In this parable there was a servant who owed the king a great big debt. This debt was so big that there was no possible way the servant was ever going to be able to pay the debt he owed. When the servant begged for mercy from the king, the king felt sorry for him and forgave his debt completely. The servant no longer owed the king any money. Now this servant who had just been forgiven this great big debt came upon another servant who owed him a very small debt. The amount of money owed by this servant was much, much smaller than the very big debt the first servant had been forgiven. The servant who owed the very small debt begged for mercy because he could not afford to pay back the money he owed. You would think that after being forgiven the very big debt, that the first servant would have had mercy on the one who owed him just a small amount of money. But he did not have mercy, he threw that servant in in prison. When the king found out that the servant he had just shown mercy to did not show mercy to the other servant, he was very angry with the unforgiving servant and he sent him to prison.

- **How is the first servant's very big debt to the king like our sins against God?** The servant's huge debt is like our many sins against God – too many to count.
- **Just like the servant could never repay his debt, what can we never do about our sins?** We can never pay for our many, many sins.
- **What did the king do for the servant?** The king forgave his debt.
- **Like the king, what does God, out of his great love, do for us?** God forgives our many sins.

God's love and mercy shown to us should lead us to show love and mercy to others!

Memory Treasure: Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the loving mercy you have shown to us through Jesus. We know that we can never earn or deserve your love and forgiveness. Let our thankfulness to you show in everything we do. Amen

Worksheet: Please do the worksheet which is provided as a separate document. The answer key for the worksheet is t on the bottom of the second page of this document.

Art Project: See direction for the art project/activity on the second page of this document. Please share a picture of your completed art project by sending photos to the email address below.

Want to share your artwork with us?

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to office@gsholmen.org

*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements

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Art project supplies included in packet in church:

- 1) Green door hanger template for you to cut out
- 2) Memory verse typed on a small piece of white paper
- 3) Foam decorative pieces

Art supplies you will need:

- 1) Scissors
- 2) Glue or glue stick
- 3) Crayons or Marker

Art Project Directions:

- 1) Cut out the door hanger, including the hole for the door knob
- 2) Glue on the memory verse to the back side
- 3) Color and glue on the foam pieces to decorate both sides of the door hanger
- 4) Remember to forgive as Jesus forgives us!

Your art project will look something like the what is shown below:



Worksheet Answer Key: Part One: Missing words: a. pay, b. sins, c. forgiven, d. sin, e. punish, f. sinned. Matches: 1.b, 2.a, 3.c, 4.d, 5.f, 6.e

Part Two: Paragraphs will vary, but should include why the child is thankful for forgiveness as well as the desire to forgive other people.

God bless your week!

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