

Q8

LIFE OF JESUS

The Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor

4th-
5th

PursueGODkids.org

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a parable Jesus told about forgiveness. Remember, a parable is just a fancy word for a story used to teach an important lesson. One day, a king decided to collect all of the money his servants owed him. One guy owed him A LOT of money, like millions of dollars! The servant pleaded with the king to give him more time. The king felt sorry for the guy and decided to forgive the entire debt! That's crazy! You would think the servant would be so thankful. But, the servant did something surprising. He went to a guy who owed him a few thousand dollars and said, "Pay up!" That guy pleaded for more time but the servant wouldn't wait. He threw him in jail until he could pay him back. Did you catch that? The servant who had just been released from a HUGE debt went to a guy who owed him a SMALL debt and made him pay. Here's the point. Jesus is like the king. He gave his life to pay for our sin debts. The debt we owe God for our sins is way bigger than any debt someone owes us. We need to be forgiving because we've been forgiven. So, get in the habit of forgiving!

Big Idea

Make it a habit to be forgiving

Key Question

How has Jesus modeled forgiveness for us?

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:22 "Forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven."

Classroom Agenda

1. **(5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. **(5 min) WARM UP: What does it look like to hold a grudge? Describe what it looks like to forgive someone.**
(Tip: A grudge means we're mean and we want revenge. Forgiving means we choose to be kind and not hold the mistake over their head.)
3. **(5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. **(20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. **(2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. **(3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **By dying for OUR sins even when we don't deserve it.** (The Bible says that Jesus died for our sins because he loves us. He didn't even wait for us to ask for forgiveness. He just did it. That means our sin debt is totally forgiven. And, we can't earn that forgiveness by being good or nice. We could never do enough to pay our own debt.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why did Jesus die for us? Why can't we earn his forgiveness? **4-5th** Share a time you chose to forgive someone. Why are holding grudges so bad?
)
7. **(5 min) EXPLORE: Read Colossians 3:13. List all the things this verse says we should do. Is there someone you need to forgive? What has Jesus modeled for us?** (Answer: We should be gracious and remember that we all make mistakes. We should forgive by letting go of anger or wanting pay backs. This is what Jesus did for us. He doesn't hold our mistakes over our heads. He forgives us and gives us a fresh start!)
8. **(10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. **(5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: LESSON REVIEW JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a ringer.
- Read a question from below. First team to ring gets a chance to answer. If correct, they get a point. If wrong, other team gets a chance to answer for a bonus point. Team with the most points wins.

Questions:

1. What is a parable? (a story that teaches a lesson)
2. What did the king demand from his servants?
(pay back debts)

3. What did the servant ask the king to do? (be patient)
4. How big was the servant's debt? (millions)
5. T or F: Forgiveness means you choose not to hold a grudge. (T)
6. What did the king decide to do that was so crazy?
(forgive entire debt)
7. Who told this story? (Jesus)
8. What did the servant do once forgiven? (wouldn't forgive debt owed to him by a guy)
9. Who does the king represent in the story? (Jesus)
10. Name one reason why we should forgive.

Supplies needed: Bells/Ringers

OPTION 2:BIBLE HANGMAN

Instructions:

- Have kids take turns being in charge of Hangman using the words or phrases below.
- Then, read the story from Matthew 18:21-34. Remind the kids to not be like the servant who refused to forgive a debt owed to him. We should always be in the habit of forgiving because Jesus has forgiven us.

Words/Phrases:

Forgiveness

The king forgave a huge debt

Servant

Matthew

We should make it a habit to forgive

Supplies needed: Whiteboard/Marker

Q8

LIFE OF JESUS

The Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor

PursueGODkids.org

We should practice forgiving others because we've been forgiven!

Key Points:

- Jesus told a story about a guy who owed a lot of _____.
- The servant begged and begged and got _____ than he expected.
- But then the servant _____ forgive even a small debt.
- We should make a habit of forgiving because we've been _____.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 18:22 Forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *What does it look like to hold a grudge? Describe what it looks like to forgive someone.*
3. *Who owed the king a big debt? What did the king do about the debt?*
4. *What did that guy go and do after his debt was forgiven? Why did that make the king so mad?*
5. *Read Colossians 3:13. List all the things this verse says we should do. Is there someone you need to forgive? What has Jesus modeled for us?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

NAME THE FOUR GOSPEL BOOKS
(HINT-FIRST 4 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT)

1.

2.

3.

4

Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

Matthew 18: _____ " _____ not
_____ times, but seventy
_____ seven."

