

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

Life of Christ

The Unforgiving Man

Matt. 18:21-33

Younger Verse

Jesus said "I am the good shepherd." John 10:14

Older Verse

Jesus said "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me." John 10:14

Welcome Time

Have you ever done something wrong, but you didn't get in trouble for it? Sometimes teachers or parents know we have done wrong but give us mercy and do not punish us as we deserve. Listen and see what happens in today's lesson.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One of Jesus' best friends came up to Him. He asked Jesus how many times a person should forgive someone who did wrong to them. Peter guessed that 7 times would be enough.

Jesus answered, "Not just seven times but as many as 77 times!"

Then Jesus told a story to help Peter and others understand how they must forgive people all the time.

Once upon a time, there was a king who wanted to get all his money matters in order. One man that owed him millions of dollars was brought in to see him. The man did not have any money to pay the debt. The king ordered the man, his wife, and children be sold into slavery to pay for the debt.

The man fell to his knees. He pleaded with the king to have patience with him. Surprisingly, the king looked at the man and had mercy on him. He cancelled the debt! He no longer had to pay the king any of the money he owed!

The man was so excited that he had been forgiven. He could not believe it.

Suddenly, this man who had just been forgiven by the king found a servant that owed him several dollars. He grabbed the man by his throat and began to choke him. He demanded the servant pay him back.

The servant fell to the ground (just like he had done) and begged for mercy.

"Please sir, be patient with me!"

The man refused. Instead he had the servant thrown into prison.

Several other men saw what happened. They knew the man had been treated kindly by the king. They also saw how the man showed no mercy or patience to someone who owed him very little. It was as if he had forgotten how kind the king was toward him.

Lesson Goals

Understand what it means to forgive others
See how God loves us and has mercy on us.

The men told the king what had happened.

The king called the man to come. “You wicked man,” he said, “I cancelled your debt because you begged me. Shouldn’t you do the same with the man who begged you?” The king was so angry that he threw the man in jail until he could pay back everything he owed.

Jesus told this story so that we can remember how we must also show patience and mercy toward others—even when they have done us wrong.

Jesus was a great example of what He taught. He had patience and mercy. He showed love to others, when they continually tried to hurt Him. In fact, do you know how far Jesus went to show mercy? He died. That’s right. Jesus died for the wrong things that other people did. He died for everyone. That includes all the people that hurt Him. But that wasn’t the end. Jesus came back to life! He arose from the grave. People saw Him and knew that God did a miracle. Jesus was alive again.

Because Jesus is alive, we know that if we believe in Him, we will go to Heaven one day. That’s exciting. That’s real mercy. That’s real love.

Learning Activities

Use different hands-on ideas to help the kids understand the point of the story.

Memory Verse Activities

Write the words of the verse on separate pieces of paper. Also write other words that are not in the verse (ex: bad, goats, don’t know, etc.) Let the kids put the verse in order. Now explain how they had to “know” the verse to get it right. Now share how God knows us and loves us.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help each person show forgiveness to others this week. Pray for requests too.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Clean up the area and prepare for snacks. Try eating in a different location to add variety to the day.

Planning for Sept. 14th
Jesus and the children
Matthew 19:13-15

Preschool Lesson for An Unforgiving Man

(Bring or make some paper money and a paper crown)

Jesus told a story to help Peter and others understand how they must forgive people all the time.

Once upon a time, there was a king who wanted to get all his money matters in order. (Put paper crown on someone) One man that owed him lots of money (show wad of money) was brought in to see him. The man did not have any money to pay the debt.

The man fell to his knees. (Fall on your knees) He begged the king to have patience with him. (Say "Please, please, please.") Surprisingly, the king looked at the man and told him that he did not have to pay the king back!

The man was so excited that he had been forgiven. He could not believe it. (Jump up and down)

Suddenly, this man found a servant that owed him several dollars. (Show two paper dollars) He grabbed the servant by his throat and began to choke him. He demanded the servant pay him back.

The servant fell to the ground (just like he had done) and begged for help.

"Please sir, be patient with me!"

Do you know what the man did?. He had the man thrown into jail. He did not forgive him.

Several other men saw what happened. They knew the man had been treated kindly by the king. They also saw how the man showed no mercy or forgiveness to someone who owed him very little. It was as if he had forgotten how kind the king was toward him.

The men ran to the king (pretend like you are running) and told him what had happened.

The king called the man to come. "You wicked man," he said, "I forgave your debt because you begged me. Shouldn't you do the same with the man who begged you?" The king was so angry that he threw the man in jail until he could pay back everything he owed.

Jesus told this story so that we can remember how we must also show forgiveness and love toward others—even when they have done us wrong.

Jesus wants us to be nice and kind and patient, even when someone is not nice to us. Jesus wants us to be friends and love everyone.

Sing, "I'm all wrapped up, tied up, tangled up in God."

Hands-on Activities for An Unforgiving Man

Make the forgiveness plaque. Instructions are included.

Make paper money and crowns. Act out the story.

Jesus says not to take revenge. Talk about it. (This will be a lively discussion because most kids want to “get revenge.”)

Talk about how you can be “patient with everyone” this week. Teachers, you may want to share how you will be patient with someone this week. Ask the kids to keep you accountable.

The mean man would not forgive. Is there someone that we need to forgive? Ask the kids to think about someone that has hurt them. Share how important it is to forgive them and let God take care of everything.

Ask the kids if they have ever played the game “Mercy?” Ask them what it means when someone cries “Mercy?” Talk about today’s story and what mercy and patience are all about.

This is a good lesson to act out. You may want to bring black crepe streamers and hang from a door to resemble a “jail.”