

THE STORY

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven."

Jesus then told a parable: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. A man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was unable to pay, the king ordered that he and his wife and children be sold to repay the debt.

The servant fell on his knees and begged, "Be patient with me and I will pay back everything." The king had pity on him, cancelled the debt, and let him go.

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me and I will pay you back."

But he refused. Instead, he had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what that happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

The king called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger, the master had him put in prison until he should pay back all he owed.

Jesus said, "This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

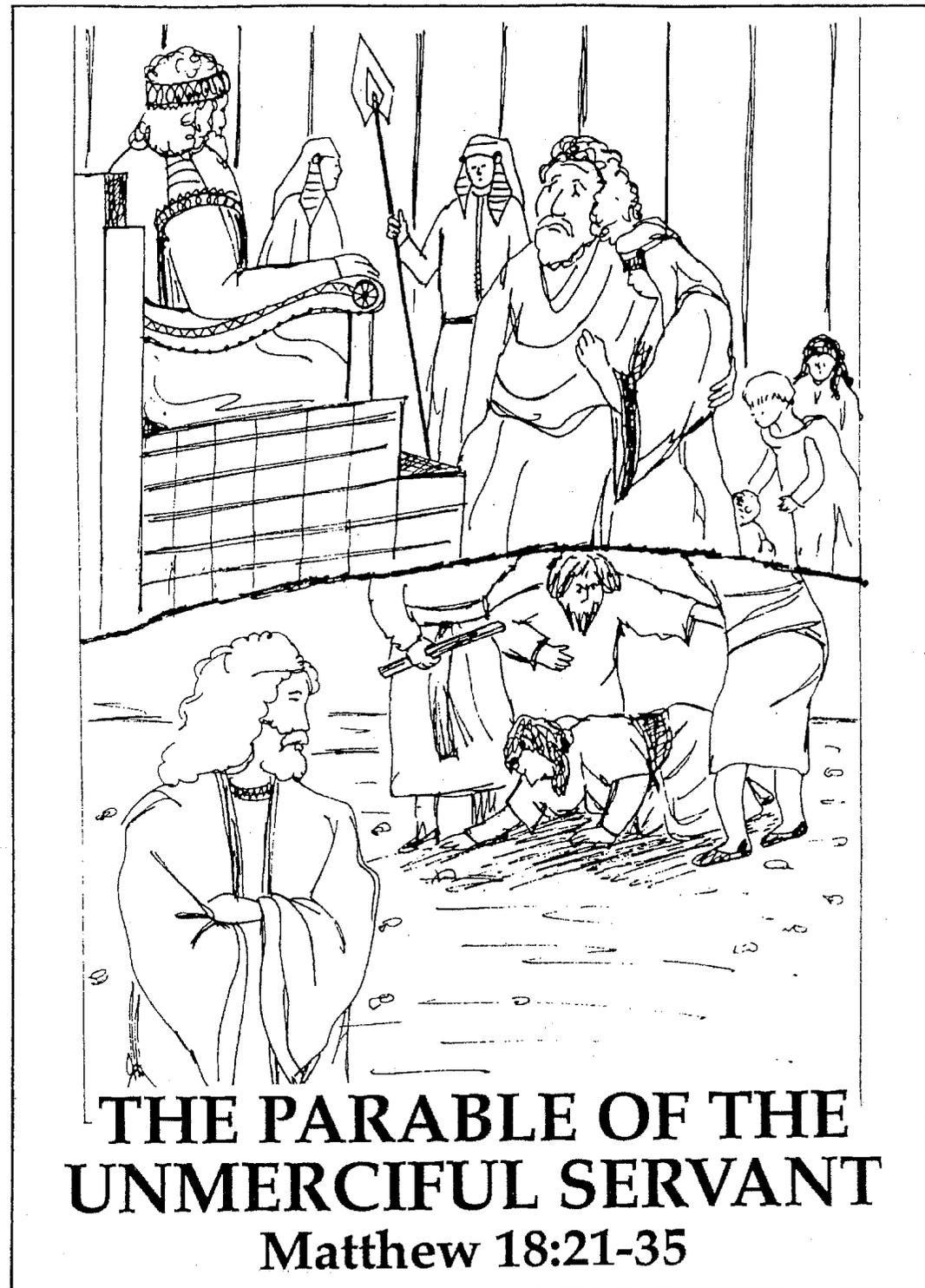
FAITH AND FAMILY TIME

- Talk about the story picture, and the children's activities. Read more about the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-35, or in a Bible story book.
- Develop and practise a plan for forgiving: when someone hurts you, tell that person you are hurt (just between the two of you). Talk about the problem and pray together. Try to find a way to keep it from happening again. Forgive the person who hurt you. (Ambassadors of Reconciliation has practical suggestions for reconciliation.)
- Sometimes we find it harder to forgive family members than anyone else. Talk about the importance of forgiving in the family and about the harm that comes from holding grudges.
- Watch a TV program showing conflict among people. Talk about what would have happened if someone had forgiven instead of wanting revenge. Discuss TV dramas, and whether forgiveness is often included in their plots.



PRAYER

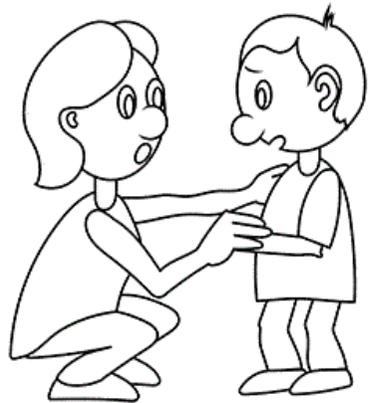
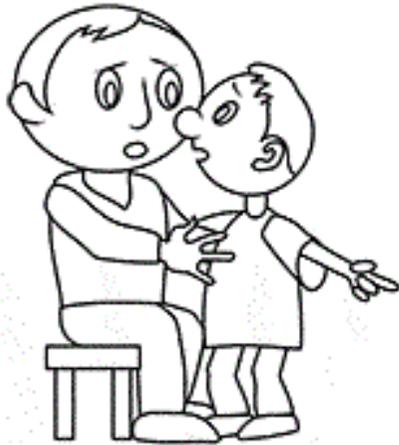
Our Father in heaven, in Your mercy forgive us our sins. Help us to forgive those who sin against us. Amen.



**THE PARABLE OF THE
UNMERCIFUL SERVANT**
Matthew 18:21-35

God loves us and forgives us.
God helps us love and forgive others, too.

Colour the forgiving
and loving pictures.



forgive



About the Bible Verse

- When we say *forgive us our sins* we think about Jesus dying on the cross to forgive us. Then when we say we *forgive those who sin against us*, we think about people who have hurt us and pass that forgiveness on to them.

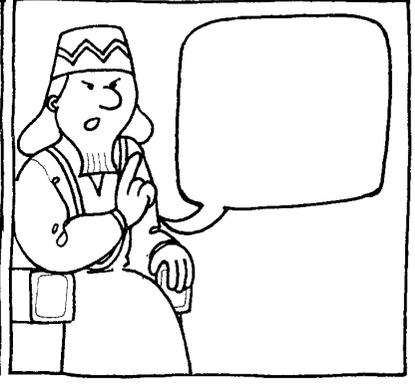
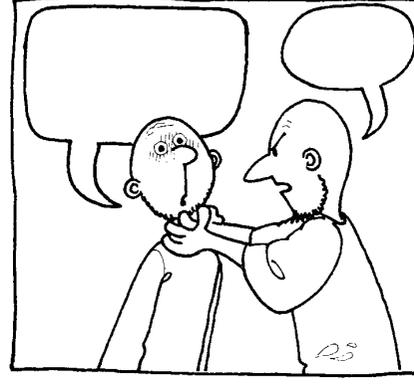
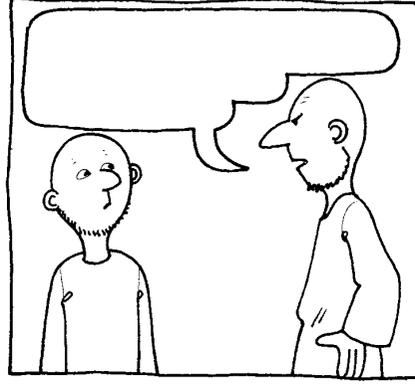


Bible Verse
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**
Matthew 6:12



Draw a line to match the words with the people saying them in the pictures.

- Give me the 100 million dollars that you owe me.
- NO! You must be punished in prison!
- I forgive you. The debt is cancelled.
- Be patient with me and I will pay back everything.
- Be patient with me and I will pay back everything.
- Give me the 100 dollars that you owe me.
- I cancelled your debt, but you had no mercy. Punish this wicked man!



Bible Verse
Forgive as the Lord
forgave you.
Colossians 3:13

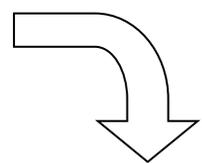
About the Bible Verse

As children of God we are forgiven at our Baptism. God acts, and we respond to him. There are two "forgivings" in this Bible Verse. Which comes first? What follows the first forgiving? One forgiving follows the other. We can read it in a circle.

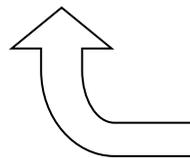
forgive as the Lord

you forgave

Something Jesus does
for me



forgive



Something Jesus wants
me to do for others

