

Forgiveness

Objective: Your child will be able to understand what forgiveness is and the importance of forgiving your brother.

Bible: KJV 1611 with apocrypha

Opening Statement

Has someone ever hurt you so much that you were angry? Even when someone does you wrong you have to forgive them. You can't hold a grudge. If you did something wrong would you want someone to forgive you? We must treat others the same way we want to be treated. When you can forgive someone, it lifts a heavy weight off your shoulder.

Vocabulary Words

Forgiveness- the act of releasing feelings of resentment or hatred towards a person who has harmed you.

Resentment- a feeling of anger at something because of a wrong, insult or injury.

Key Scriptures:

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

Matthew 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

- We must always forgive our brothers because we constantly sin and the Lord constantly forgives us. Although you forgive someone, it does not mean you have to forget what they did. You must apply the scriptures when problems arise.

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

- The Holy Ghost is the commandments of God. If you disrespect Gods commandment or go against them, God will not forgive you for that. To blaspheme the Holy Ghost is when you lie against what the scriptures say. For example if you say Christ is a white man you are blaspheming the Holy Ghost.

Activity: Scenario Time

Saul and David

1 Samuel 18:6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

1 Samuel 18:7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

1 Samuel 18:8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

1 Samuel 18:9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

1 Samuel 18:10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

1 Samuel 24:7 So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

1 Samuel 24:8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

1 Samuel 24:9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

1 Samuel 24:10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.

- Saul was angry at David because David killed more men than him in the battle. The people were praising David instead of Saul so he was upset about that. He tried to kill David multiple times by throwing a javelin at him. Even with all of this, when David was given the opportunity to kill Saul he did not.

Q. How did David show forgiveness?

Christ

Luke 23:28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

Luke 23:29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck.

Luke 23:30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

Luke 23:31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Luke 23:32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

Luke 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

- Christ asked the Lord to forgive the men after they wronged him. He did nothing wrong but they wanted him to be crucified.

Q. Why did Christ ask the Lord to forgive the men?

Moses and Lord

Exodus 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Exodus 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Exodus 32:11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Exodus 32:12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Exodus 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

Exodus 32:14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

- Moses asked the Lord to forgive the people after they had made a molten calf and worshipped it, instead of worshipping the Lord .

Q. Why did Moses ask the Lord for forgiveness?

Luke 23:31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

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Q. How did Christ show forgiveness?

Joseph

Genesis 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

Genesis 37:4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Genesis 37:26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

Genesis 37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Genesis 37:28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Genesis 50:17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

Genesis 50:18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

Genesis 50:19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

- Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery because their father loved him more than them. They attacked Joseph with mean words every time they saw him. Years later, Joseph saw his brothers again and instead of holding in hatred, he forgave them.

Q. How did Joseph show forgiveness?

The king and servant

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 18:24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

Matthew 18:25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Matthew 18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Matthew 18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

Matthew 18:29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Matthew 18:30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

Matthew 18:31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Matthew 18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Matthew 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

Matthew 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

- There was a king who owed a lot of money that he could not pay back and a servant who also owed money that he could not pay back. The king wanted to pay back money that he owed so he put his hands on the servant and asked him to give him back the money that he was lent. Because the servant could not pay him back, he threw him in jail. If you can't forgive your brother for something they did, the Lord will not forgive you either.

Q. Was the king able to show forgiveness?

Scenario Time - For each scenario, have the child state if the person was forgiven.

- 1) Your friend borrowed your toy without asking and broke it. They came up to you and said sorry, I didn't mean to break it. I just wanted to play with it. You say "No one told you to touch my toy anyway. I don't want your apology because you didn't ask to use my toy."
- 2) Your friend made fun of a pair of shoes that you had on. You said it was not funny and then your friend apologized. You gave each other a hug.
- 3) Your brother ate some of your snacks when you went to the bathroom. When he came back you noticed that some of your snacks were gone and he apologized. You said it's ok. After that, every time you have a snack you say to your brother "I can't leave my snack here. Do you remember the last time you ate my snack when I went to the bathroom."
- 4) Your friend had their foot out and while walking you tripped over their foot. They apologized but you said I don't want to be your friend anymore.
- 5) When your friend was walking you jumped out and scared him. He started crying and said "That's not funny. I don't like when people scare me." You said sorry and gave your friend a hug.

Q & A- Review

- Why is forgiveness important?
- Why do we have to forgive?
- Can I choose to forgive someone?
- Why should you forgive instead of holding a grudge?
- How can I show someone I forgive them?

Closing

How can you forgive someone that hurt you? If you tell someone you forgive them you have to let it go and you can't bring it back up. When you are able to move on, you know that you have truly forgiven that person. If you can not forgive your brother, the Lord will not forgive you either when you go before him in prayer. It is not always easy to let it go but it is necessary. The Lord forgave us for the sin we have committed so we must do the same for our neighbor. If you can't forgive your neighbor all of your sins will be stuck on you and written in the book of life. All the good you have done will be forgotten and you will be adding sin upon sin because you could not forgive.

- Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.