

*Get Ready!***How Many Times?**

By: Julie Gallagher

**Text**

Matthew 18:21-35

Key Quest Verse

“I will remember their sins no more. Hebrews 12:8b

Bible Background

Jesus uses this illustration to explain the concept of forgiveness. Jesus isn't teaching that we should keep track of the number of times someone does something to hurt us and then stop forgiving him when he has done it more than 490 times. He meant that we should always be willing to forgive, no matter how many times he does something to us.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

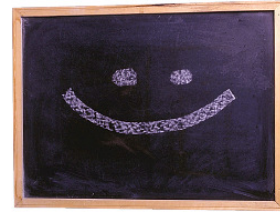
Know: God will forgive us when we ask.

Feel: Forgiveness for someone who's wronged us

Do: To forgive someone or to ask forgiveness

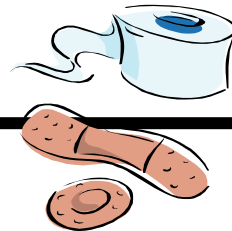
Leader's Devotion

Forgiveness is serious business as far as God is concerned. In the prayer that Jesus taught us, we pray “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” Jesus follows up the prayer saying “*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*” (Matthew 6:14-15) As his disciples we are to follow his example of forgiveness. If Jesus could forgive the men who crucified him, what offenses might we have that are unworthy of our forgiveness. The Bible doesn't allow any excuse for unforgiveness in our hearts. Pray this week that God will show you areas in which you harbor resentment and bitterness. Ask God to help you forgive as He has forgiven you.

Get Set!**Option A**

Materials: Chalkboard and chalk, or newsprint and markers

Can anyone tell me of a time when someone hurt you? Sometimes other kids say mean things that hurt our feelings. Sometimes kids are just mean. How do you feel when someone hurts you? What do you do? Did you know that we can forgive others when they hurt us? It's not always easy, especially when they hurt us again and again. In part of our story today, Peter asks Jesus how many times we should forgive. He thought seven sounded like a good number. Choose a child to come make seven marks on the chalkboard. Jesus told Peter that we should forgive someone 70 times 7. That sure is a lot of forgiving! Let's see if we can fit that many marks on our chalkboard. Let the children take turns marking on the board and go until you have 490 (seventy times seven) marks or until the board is full. Jesus also told a story about forgiveness. Let's listen to see how Jesus thinks we should forgive.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**Option B**

Materials: Different shapes and sizes of Band-Aids.

Has anyone ever got hurt and needed a Band-Aid? We put Band-Aids on our sores to help them heal. Did you know that when someone hurts your feelings it's like a sore? It hurts your heart. What kind of Band-Aid do you think you could put on that kind of sore? Well, the only way to start healing a hurt from someone else is to forgive them. When we forgive, God starts to take away the pain and our heart starts to heal. It's kind of like putting a Band-Aid on your heart. Give the children each two Band-Aids - one to keep to remember about forgiveness and one to give away to someone they need to forgive.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Materials : Make bars like a jail cell out by stapling strips of black construction paper together

Today you will be telling the story from the perspective of the king in the parable.

Hello there. I'm a king and very powerful. I have lots of money and possessions and many servants. One day Jesus told a story about something that happened to me. You see, some of my servants owed me money and so I decided to collect it. One servant in particular owed me a ton of money. You wouldn't believe how much money he owed me - millions of dollars! There was no way that he could come up with that kind of money, so I decided that he should sell everyone thing he had - even his wife and children - to pay me back. What do you think he did? What would you do? He fell down on his knees and begged me to give him more time. He said he would pay me back. You know, I felt kind of sorry for him, so I decided to forgive the debt - he didn't have to pay me back anymore.

Later, some of my servants told me something they had seen. It turns out that the servant who had owed me all that money had run into someone who owed him about 20 dollars. What do you think he did? He told him to give him his 20 dollars. The guy didn't have it, so he begged him to give him some time to pay it back. You'd think that he'd forget about the 20 dollars since I didn't make him pay me back, but NOOOO, he had the guy thrown into jail.

Now that really made me mad! I had forgiven his huge debt, and he couldn't even forgive a small debt. I was so angry that I sent him to jail to be tortured.

Jesus explained that we're supposed to forgive even little things that happen to us. I guess one of his disciples had asked him how many times we have to forgive someone. The disciple thought maybe seven times would be enough. Jesus said no, we should forgive seventy times seven. He even said that God won't forgive us if we don't forgive others

Go!

Will You Forgive?**DRAMA**

Materials: Play money, bright colored robe or fabric for the Master, robe or fabric for the servants, jail bars made out of black construction paper

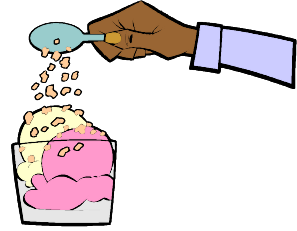
Quest Connection

Jesus told a story about the master who forgave a huge debt. Let's act out the story.

Procedure: Choose children to play the parts of the master and the servants. Review the story by letting the children act it out. If there is time, do it again with different children playing the parts.

Close

How did you feel when your debt was forgiven? How did you feel when your debt wasn't forgiven? How do you think the master felt when he heard about his servant's unforgiveness?

Go!**White As Snow****FOOD Be Aware of Food Allergies!**

Materials: For each child: 1 tablespoon of sugar, 1/2 cup milk or half and half, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla, 6 tablespoons Rock salt, 1 pint sized Ziploc bag, 1 gallon sized Ziploc bag, ice

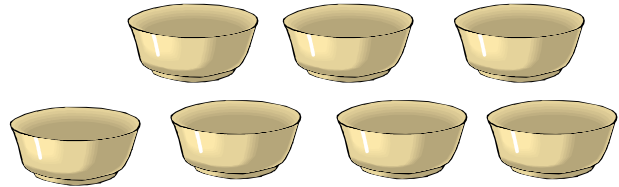
Quest Connection

The prophet, Isaiah, says that when sins are forgiven it is like they are white as snow. We don't have snow today, but we're going to make something else that is white to remind us that God forgives sins and wipes them clean.

Procedure: Fill the large bag half full of ice and add the rock salt. Seal the bag. Put the milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag and seal it. Place the small bag inside the large bag and seal carefully. Shake until mixture is ice cream - about 5 minutes. Wipe off the top of the small bag, then open and eat.

Close

You will hear many songs we sing at church that will have the phrase "white as snow" in them. When you sing those songs, remind yourself of the time we made this special treat and the meaning behind it!

Go!**How Many Times?****GAME**

Materials: Seven bowls, each labeled with one word of the memory verse, seven pennies for each child

Quest Connection

Do you remember that one of the disciples asked Jesus how many times we have to forgive someone? What did he think was a good number? (seven) How many times did Jesus say we need to forgive? Let's practice saying our memory verse and play a game of second chances.

Procedure: Have the children line up at a starting line. Place the bowls in a line away from them getting progressively farther away. Let each child try to get one penny into each bowl. Talk about whether they should get more than one chance to get the penny into the bowl. Play until everyone has had a chance to try.

Close

Was it easy or hard to get the pennies in the bowls? Did you want another try? How many times do you forgive your friends when they do something to hurt you? Is there anyone that you need to forgive? If there is, you need to talk to them and let them know that you forgive them.

Go!

A Clean Heart**ARTS AND CRAFTS**

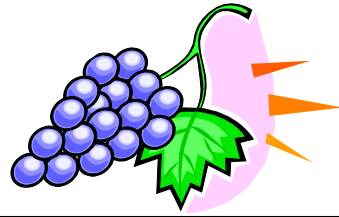
Materials: Red construction paper hearts, clear contact paper, dry erase markers, paper towel, markers

Quest Connection

Help the children write the memory verse on their heart with a marker. Cover the heart with clear contact paper. Have the children think of sins (lied to mom, hit sister, cheated in school, didn't obey parents . . .) and write them on the heart with the dry erase markers. Talk to the children about asking for forgiveness. Show them how to erase their sins with the paper towel.

Close

Isn't it something that all those sins came off of our hearts? That's just the way it is with God. When we ask Him to forgive us, He wipes all our sins away.

Go!

Grapes of Wrath**DRAMA**

Materials: Veggie Tale video - “God Wants Me to Forgive Them?”, television, VCR

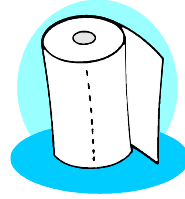
Quest Connection

In our story Jesus told about a two men - one who forgave and one who didn't. We're going to see another story about forgiveness.

Procedure: Watch the first have of the video - through the end of the Grapes of Wrath portion.

Close

How did Junior feel when the grapes made fun of him? How did he feel about forgiving them over and over again? Have you ever been like one of the grapes and said something to hurt someone else? When we do, we need to ask for forgiveness. Take a minute to think about if there is anyone you need to ask for forgiveness. Be sure to do it as soon as you can.

Go!**Can't See The Sin****SCIENCE**

Materials: Paper towel roll or toilet paper roll for each child, red cellophane, index cards with

Quest Connection

How do you feel when someone hurts you? Sometimes it's hard to forgive people when they hurt us and it's easy to remember all the bad things they ever did. The Bible tells us that we need to forgive others or God won't forgive us. Today we're going to make a special viewer to show us how God sees us when we ask for forgiveness.

Procedure: Tape the cellophane over one end of the tube. Have children write in red crayon sins that have been committed by them or against them all over the card, including over the verse. You'll want to color over most of the card. Next, let the children look through the viewer (tube with cellophane) to see what God sees when we ask for forgiveness. They should be able to read the memory verse.

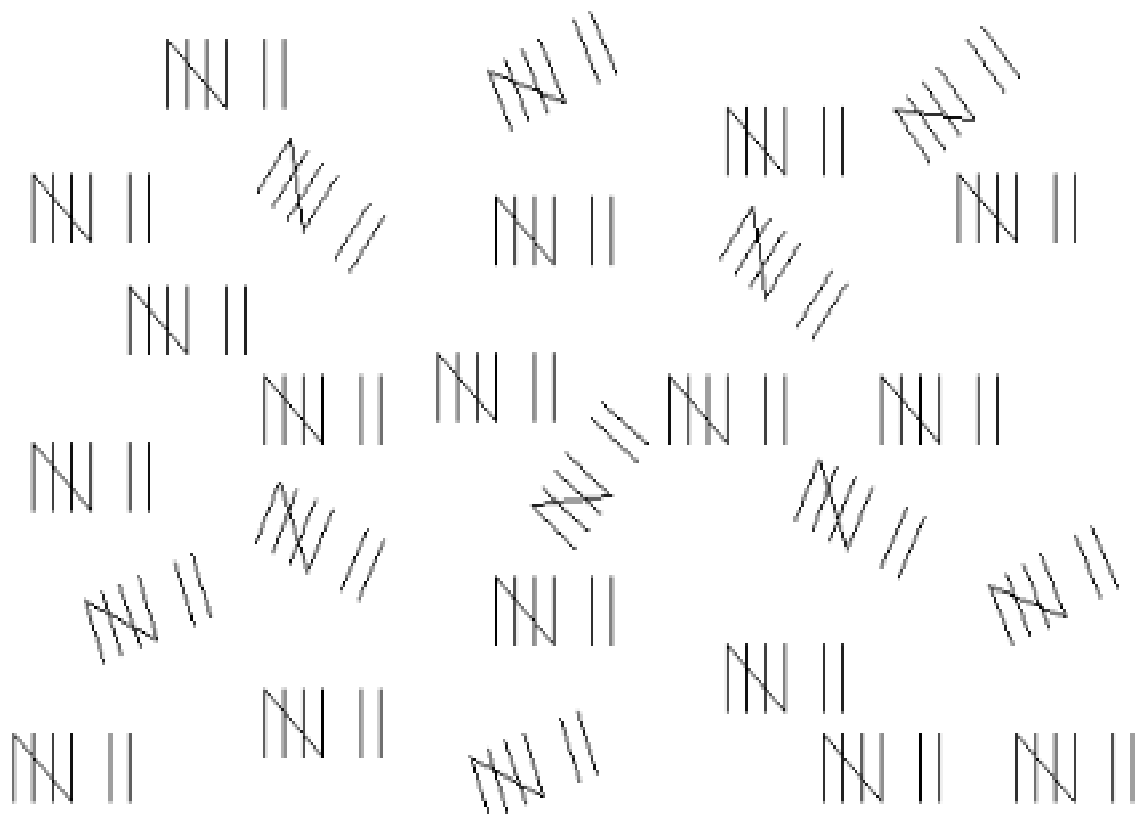
Close

What did you see when you looked through your viewer? (I will remember your sin no more) When God looks at us, He doesn't see our sins. Thank you, God, for forgiving our sins.

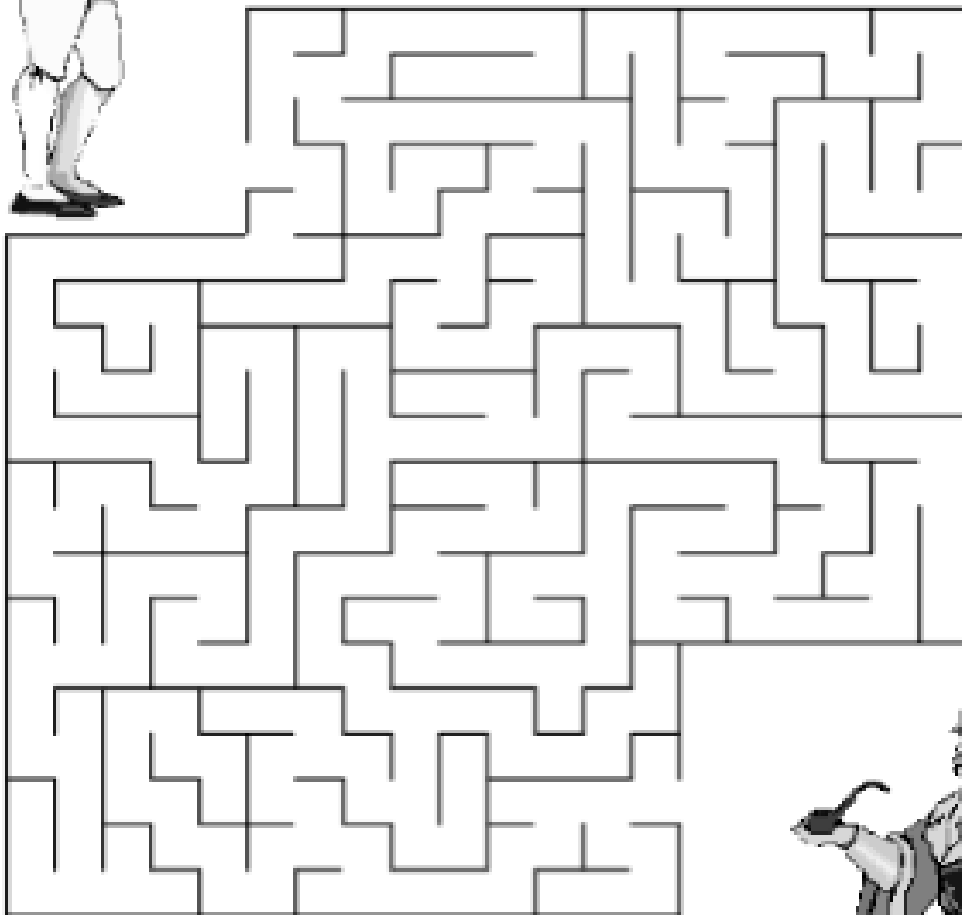
SOLVE THE PUZZLE BELOW TO FIND OUT WHAT JESUS TAUGHT US ABOUT FORGIVENESS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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S			S			S			S														
7	16	22	10	22	22	4	21	11	13	16	22	23	9	10	3	11	20	9	15	6	21	17	16
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22	16	17	16	19	8	26	8	21	5	16	22	22	16	17	18	19							



HELP THE SERVANT FIND HIS MASTER



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO???

Your little sister is playing with your favorite toy and accidentally breaks it. She tells you she's sorry and asks you to forgive her.

Should you:

- A. Start crying and throw a fit?
- B. Find her favorite toy and break it?
- C. Forgive her and find another toy?

Your mom loses her temper and yells at you. Later she comes and asks you to forgive her.

Should you:

- A. Forgive her and give her a hug?
- B. Tell her you forgive her, but stay mad at her?
- C. Tell your dad and anyone else that you have a really mean mom?

Your best friend tells you that he'll pick you to be on his soccer team in gym class. Instead, he picks the better players and you get picked last. He can tell you feel bad and apologizes.

Should you:

- A. Walk away and tell him you're not friends anymore?
- B. Forgive him and sit with him at lunch?
- C. Never pick him to be on your team?

Someone at school told a lie about you at school. When he heard that you found out about it, he said he was sorry. You don't know if he really means it or not.

Should you:

- A. Forgive him only if he promises not to lie about you anymore?
- B. Forgive him whether he means it or not?
- C. Start telling lies about him?

The Bible tells us that God forgives our sins when we ask Him to. He forgets all about them. It's as if He erased the chalkboard and wiped it clean.

The Bible also tells us that if we don't forgive, then God won't forgive us. Is there someone that you need to forgive? Write about it in the box below and then erase it like God does when we ask. Then be sure to tell the person that you forgive them.



UNSCRAMBLE THE BOXES TO SEE HOW GOD REMEMBERS OUR SIN

WRITE THE WORDS BELOW ON THE LINES

M	E	M	B	E	R	I	L	L	I	W	Y	O	N	O	R	E	S	I	N
R	E	M	O	U	R														

**BONUS: WHERE IS THIS VERSE FOUND IN THE
BIBLE?**