

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

1

CONVERSATION

Jesus Taught About Forgiveness

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter came to Jesus one day and asked Him a question: "If my brother sins against me, how many times should I forgive him? Seven times?"

Jesus answered that seven times would not be enough. Jesus said, "Seventy times seven."

Jesus told a story to explain. He said there was a king who wanted to collect money from his servants who owed him money. There was one servant who owed the king 10,000 talents. The servant had no way to pay the king back that much money, so the king demanded that the servant, his family, and everything he owned to be sold and the money given to the king.

The servant fell to his knees and begged the king to be patient. The servant promised he would pay the king everything he owed him if the king would just give him more time. The king felt sorry for the servant and set him free. The king also forgave the servant's debt and said he did not have to pay back any of the money he owed.

When the servant left the king, he found a fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii. The first servant grabbed the man, started choking him, and said, "Pay what you owe!" The fellow servant fell to his knees and begged for patience. He promised he would pay back all he owed.

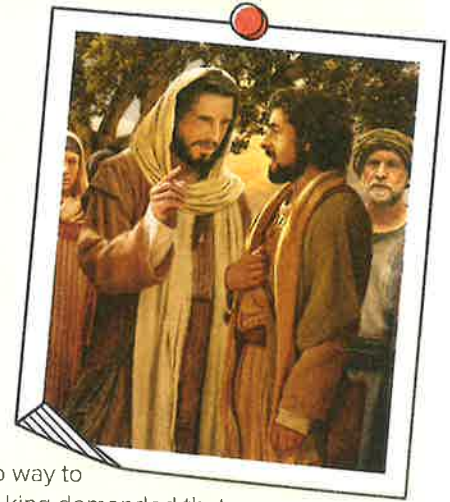
But the first servant would not forgive the man. He wanted his money. He threw the man in prison until he could pay the entire amount.

When the king heard about this, he called for the first servant to be brought back to him. The king said the servant was evil. The king had forgiven the servant the huge amount of money he owed, but then the forgiven servant did not show any kindness or forgiveness to his fellow servant.

The king sent the first servant to jail until he could pay everything that was owed. Jesus told Peter everyone should forgive and really mean it.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: Ephesians 4:32

LIFE POINT: Jesus taught that believers should forgive others as God forgives them.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Parents, today's Bible story helped your child learn that Jesus taught believers to forgive others as God forgives them. Even though forgiveness is sometimes difficult, believers can depend on God to help them forgive.

LIVE IT OUT

Remind your child that she should forgive because God forgives her. Help her memorize Ephesians 4:32. Challenge her to recite the verse if she is in a situation requiring her to forgive.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

People can obey Jesus as a response to His love.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: Ephesians 4:32

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Tuesday: Mark 4:24

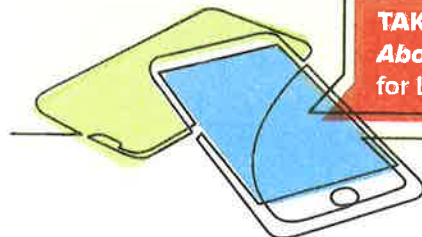
Wednesday: Colossians 3:13

Thursday: Mark 11:25

Friday: Proverbs 20:22

Saturday: Matthew 6:14

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out the *Jesus Taught About Forgiveness* section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App.



UNIT VERSE

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to
preach good news to the poor.

LUKE 4:18 (CSB)

What Happened Next?

These stories are incomplete. Choose one and finish the story. Tell the ending to someone or grab a sheet of paper and write or draw the ending.

Grant and Hannah were walking to school when, suddenly, Wyatt stood in their path. "Uh-oh," Grant said. Wyatt had caused problems for Grant and Hannah before. He liked to pick on other kids, and one time, he knocked Hannah down.

"Maybe we better run," Hannah suggested, but as they turned around, Wyatt was right behind them.

"Hey, wait," he called. "I just want to talk. I'm sorry I hurt you before."

➔ *What do you think happened next?*

Mateo and his friends wanted to play hockey at the park. Austin wanted to join them, but the boys were unsure. Austin usually played too rough and would not agree to the rules. Eli wanted to give Austin a chance, but Mateo wasn't sure. Mateo complained, "Last time Austin said he would play right, but he still didn't!"

"I promise!" Austin assured them.

➔ *What do you think happened next?*

Sofia and Jayden were best friends. They liked to do everything together. Sofia's birthday was coming, and Jayden was helping her plan a party. "Let's invite Gabriella," Jayden suggested.

"I don't know," Sofia replied. "Remember last summer when her family came over for a cookout, and you and I went off to play without her? My mother said we were rude to her and hurt her feelings. I didn't tell you because I was embarrassed. I apologized to Gabriella, but I don't think she will come again."

"Let's try," said Jayden.

The girls sent an invitation to Gabriella.

➔ *What do you think happened next?*



The Main Idea

Cross out all the sevens. Then write the main idea of today's Bible story below and read it aloud.

777J7E777SU7777S77 T777A7U7G7777H777T 77T7777H77A7T7
 B7E77L777I77E77V777E777R77S 777S77H77O7U7L77D777
 F7777O77R77G777I77V77E 777O77T77H777E777R777S 77A7777S
 77G77O77D 777F7O7R7777G77777I7777V777E77S777 T7H7E77M7777.

