

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

• Direct kid actors:

Invite one or two kids on stage to pantomime the different people in the parable. Direct him to make pleading gestures for begging or shake his fist angrily when demanding repayment.

• Use dramatic

voices: As you read the lines of the parable, give the different people different voices. Perhaps the king has a deep, noble voice while the indebted servant speaks with desperation.

Peter asked Jesus, “How many times should I forgive someone who wrongs me? Is seven times enough?”

Jesus answered, “Not just seven times, but seventy times seven times!” Then **Jesus told Peter a story to help him understand what forgiveness in the kingdom of heaven is like.**

Jesus said, “One day, a king asked all his servants to tell him how much they each owed the king. One of the servants owed the king fifty million silver coins! The servant did not have any money to give the king, so the king ordered for the servant and his family to be sold as payment for the debt.

“But the servant fell on his knees and begged the king, ‘Please give me more time. I will repay you everything I owe!’ The king felt sorry for the man, so he let the man go and forgave the debt; the servant did not have to pay the king anything.

“As the servant was leaving, he ran into a man who owed him one hundred silver coins. The servant grabbed the man by the throat and choked him. ‘Give me the money you owe me!’ he demanded.

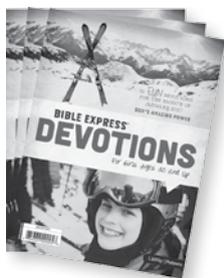
“The man fell to his knees and begged the servant, ‘Please give me more time. I will repay you everything I owe!’ But the servant refused, and he threw the man into jail.

“Some other servants told the king what happened. The king called for the servant he had forgiven. ‘You are an evil man!’ said the king. ‘I forgave what you could never repay, and you did not forgive the small amount.’ The

king was angry. He **punished the official and made him pay his debt.**”

Jesus said, “This is what My Father in heaven will do if you do not forgive each other.”

Christ Connection: Nothing we do is enough to pay the debt we owe God and take away God’s punishment for our sin. Jesus came and died on the cross to pay for our sin and take the punishment we deserve. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin completely. We can forgive others because God has greatly forgiven us greatly.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover God gives us mercy so that we will show mercy to others. King David praised God for His mercy and eagerly shared what God had done for him. (Ps. 66:16) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

More or Less

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the stack with the most coins in each row.



KEY PASSAGE: Mark 6:34

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.

BIBLE STORY:

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone.
- Jesus told a story about a servant who did not show mercy.
- Jesus taught about God's forgiveness.
- We forgive others because God has forgiven us so much.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How are we like the unmerciful servant?
- How is the king like God?
- Can you think of a time you needed to forgive someone?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Look for opportunities to remind preschoolers of the Bible story as you discipline their behavior this week. Share the gospel, explaining during times of correction how Jesus paid what we owe God.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 22, Session 2

Show It

Circle which actions are examples of showing mercy.

- Letting your sister borrow your shoes even though she borrowed and ripped your favorite shirt.
- Talking back to your mom because she broke a promise to you.
- Ignoring your friend who spread a rumor about you.
- Visiting a classmate in the hospital who got hurt after he stole your bike.
- Reading a book with your little brother after he pushed you.
- Inviting a new classmate to sit with you at lunch even though she made fun of your outfit.
- Forgiving a friend who hurt you.



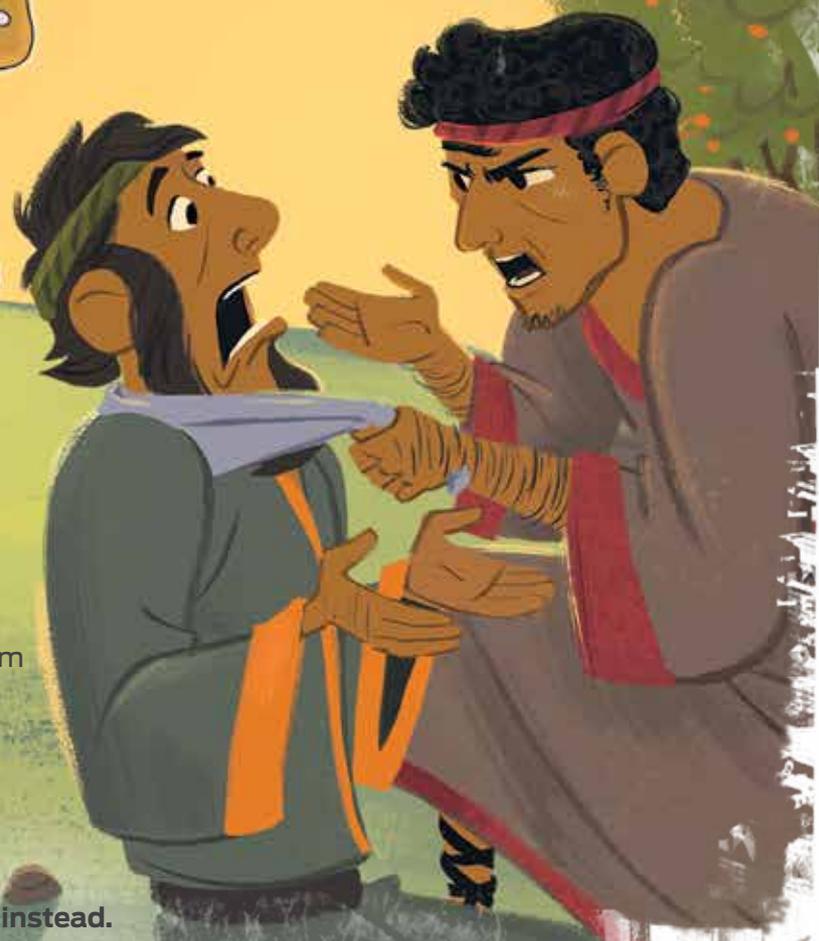
4 = Y E B

8 = E S H

12 = R S I

10 = A K M

15 = C D O



Coin Counting

Circle the bag in each row with the correct number of coins. Then write the corresponding letter in the blank at the bottom to reveal a key word from today's Bible story.

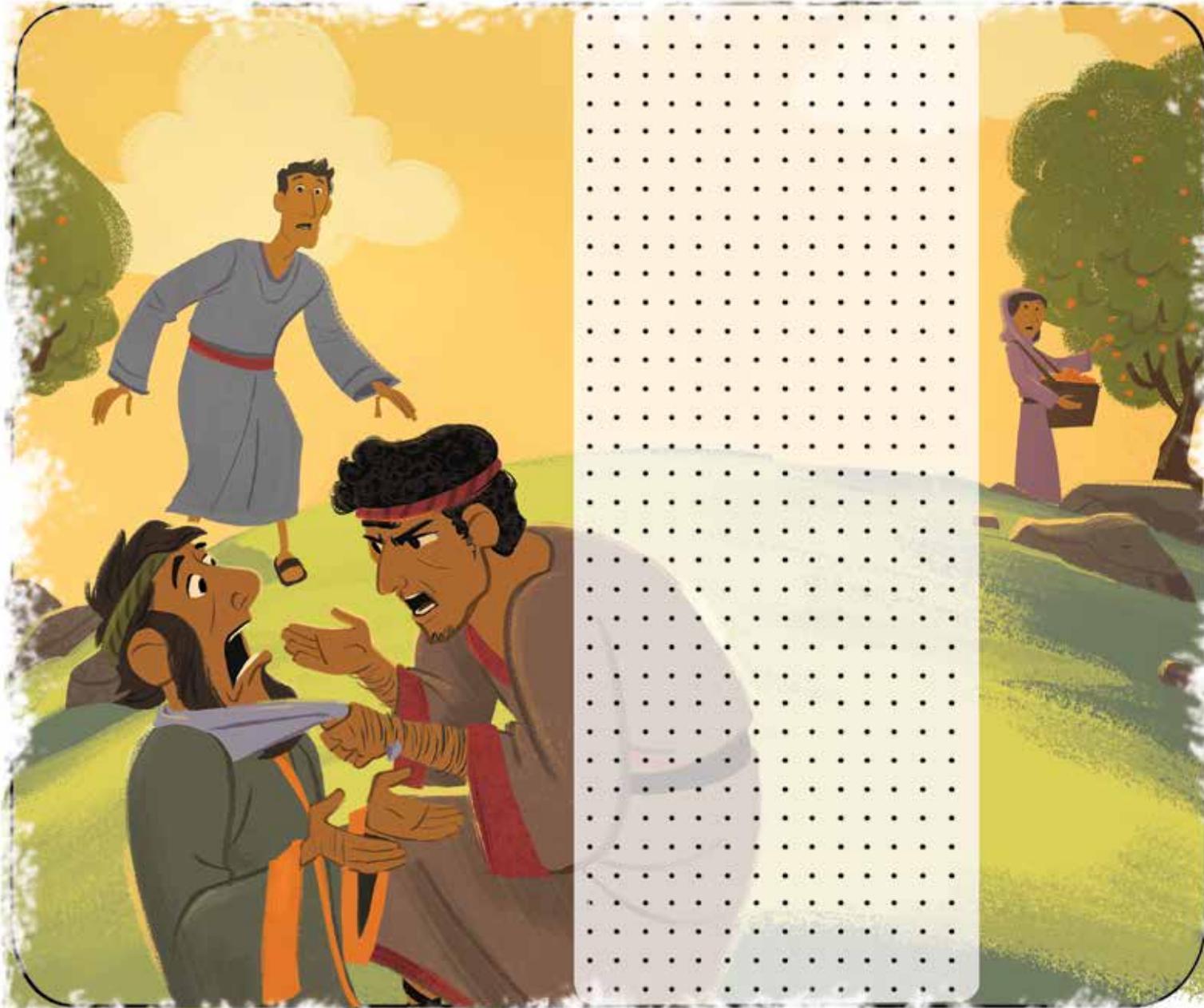
<input type="checkbox"/>				
10	8	12	15	4

is not getting the punishment you deserve, but being shown kindness instead.

Four Hundred Ninety

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Find a friend. Take turns connecting two dots with a line. If you complete a box, mark it as yours and go again.



KEY PASSAGE: Mark 6:34

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why did Jesus tell parables?
Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

BIBLE STORY:

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness.
- Jesus told a parable about an unmerciful servant.
- Even though the servant's enormous debt was forgiven, he was not willing to forgive a smaller debt owed to him.
- God shows mercy to us so that we will show mercy to others.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How is our sin like a debt to God?
- How does God's mercy affect us?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Obtain a few rolls of pennies. Use them to help your family visualize the difference in value between a penny and a larger bill. Talk about what it would be like to pay a large debt with pennies.



The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.
Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.