



SERIES: DECISIONS THAT HEAL

THE DECISION TO FORGIVE

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

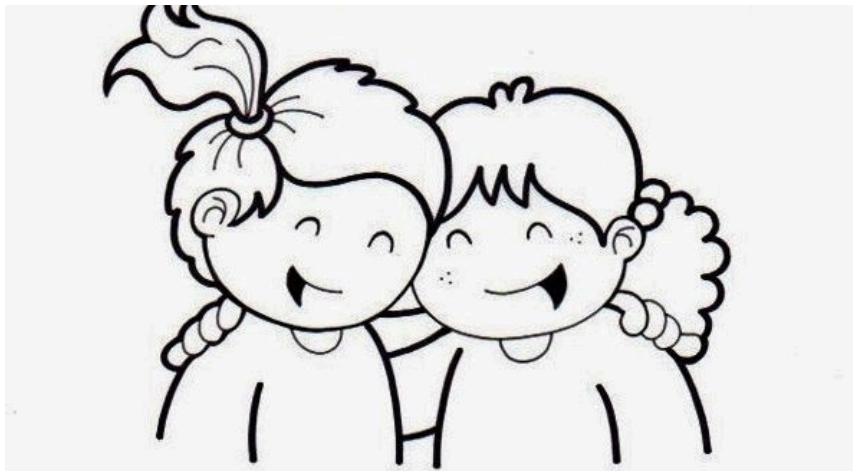
Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times"

(Matthew 18:21-22 NIV)

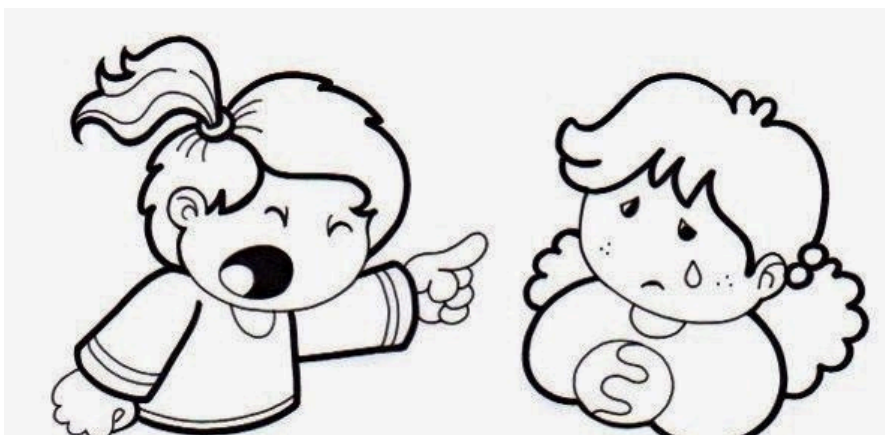
Matthew 18:21-22



This week we are going to talk about why it is so important to forgive others. In the story of Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus tells us a parable about forgiveness. When we forgive, we not only help those who have hurt us, but we also feel better and happier.



It all starts when someone hurts us. If we don't forgive quickly, that hurt turns into resentment, then into unforgiveness, and if it continues to grow, it turns into bitterness and hatred. Hate can make us feel bad, both inside and out.

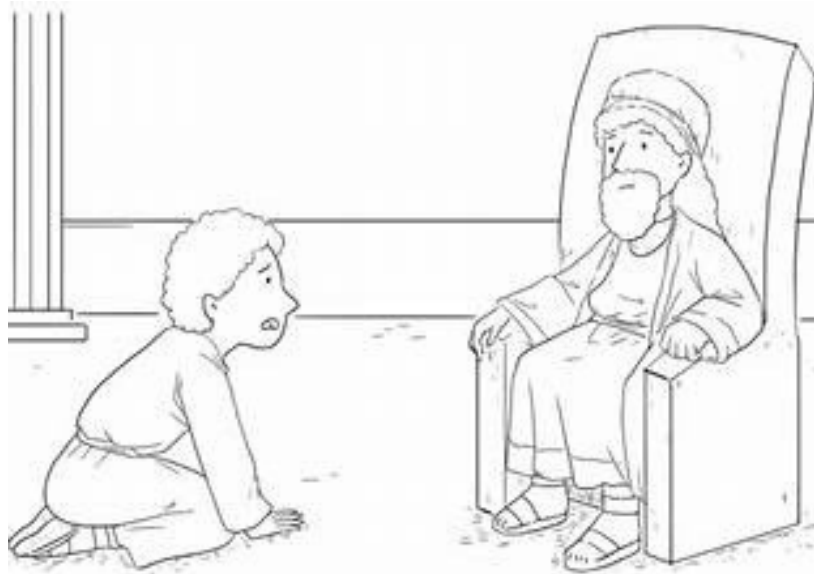


The Command to Forgive

Forgive a lot: Jesus tells us to forgive not just seven times, but many more times. This means that forgiveness must be without limits.

It is a command: For followers of Jesus, forgiveness is not an option, it is a command!

Do it always: We must make forgiveness a part of our lives, showing love and kindness always.



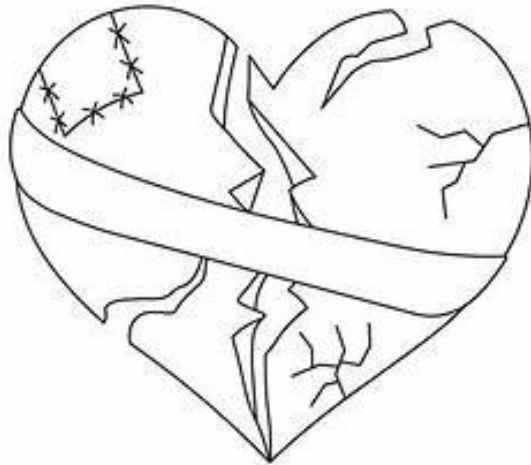
The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

The Servant: This servant had a huge debt that he could never repay, just like we do to God. This shows us how great our forgiveness is. **The King:** The king forgave the servant's debt, showing that God forgives us with great love. **The Servant's Unforgiveness:** Even though the servant was forgiven, he did not forgive others. This teaches us that we should be kind and forgive others just like God does to us.



Signs of unforgiveness

Thinking about revenge: You want something bad to happen to the person who hurt you. **Joy in misfortune:** You are happy if something bad happens to that person. **Pain when remembering:** It hurts you when you think about the offense. **Telling the story:** You tell everyone what they did to you. **Physical discomfort:** You have stomach aches, headaches, or trouble sleeping because you have not forgiven.



Consequences of Not Forgiving

Disobedience: Not forgiving is disobeying God. We must resolve conflicts quickly.

Problems: Anger and resentment can cause problems in our lives.

Prayers and Offerings: God will not hear our prayers well or accept our offerings if we do not forgive.

More Problems: Without forgiveness, we can feel trapped and have problems in our lives.



What has been done to you in the past? Is there something you have not been able to forgive? We all need to forgive and be forgiven. Deciding to forgive is important to being happy and having a good relationship with God. By forgiving others, we free ourselves from resentment and allow God's peace and joy to fill our lives.



The Forgiving King Color by Number

Color each section by the colors shown in the list at the bottom of the page. Leave any unnumbered area white.



1. light blue 2. yellow 3. red 4. gold 5. dark green 6. light green 7. purple 8. skin 9. light gray 10. brown 11. dark gray 12. tan 13. dark brown



The Story of the Forgiving King Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.
The words can be left to right, or up and down.

I	T	M	E	R	C	Y	M	O	F
T	P	R	I	S	O	N	M	V	O
D	A	I	Q	U	M	T	N	O	R
E	U	O	W	E	P	L	O	Q	G
B	F	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	I
T	O	L	O	R	S	I	T	E	V
H	E	A	R	T	S	N	T	V	E
L	I	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E
K	I	N	G	D	O	M	R	I	T
L	O	C	T	E	N	D	I	T	O

COMPASSION
DEBT
FORGIVE
HEART
HEAVEN

KINGDOM
MERCY
OWE
PATIENCE
PRISON

Name: _____

Date: _____

