

# *Family Worship*

*Forgiveness*

*14.2.2021*

# *Opening Prayer*

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

# *10,000 Reasons*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnIaN0A>



# *Catechism Time!*

Bible truths for teaching children

# Question 34

**Q:** Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

**A:** Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

**Like a tree...**

Good works are not the root of our salvation, but the fruit of our salvation. A healthy tree will bear good fruit.

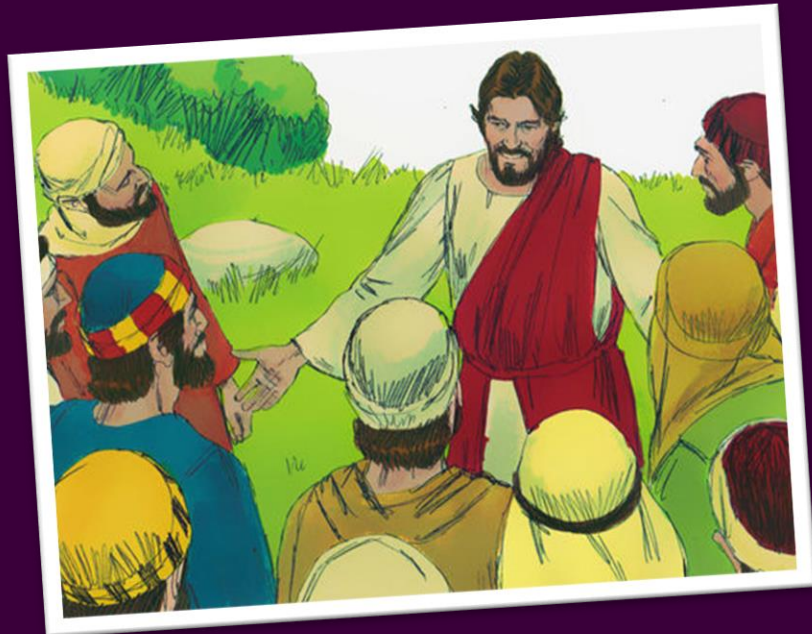
**Bible verse (Ephesians 2: 8-10)**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

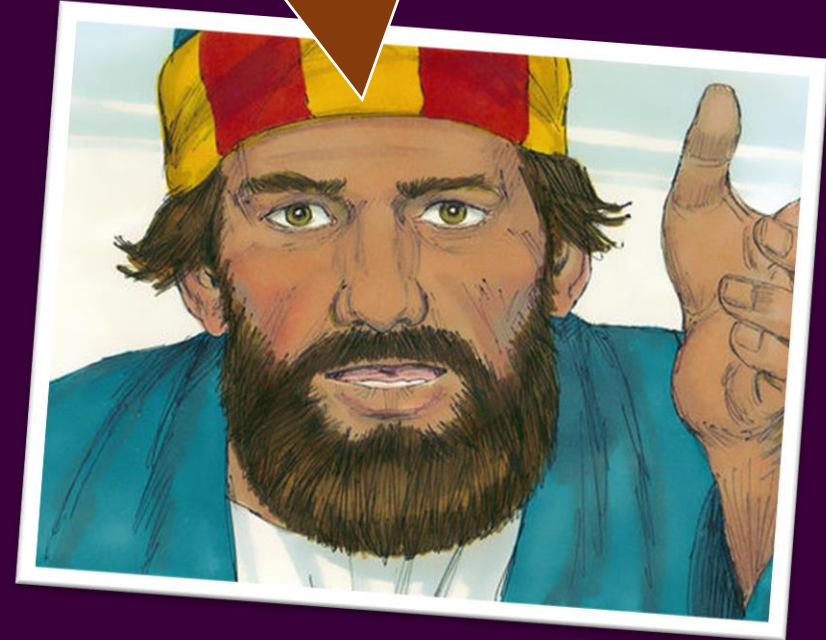
Let's Open Up the Bible

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, when my brother sins against me, how many times must I forgive him? Should I forgive him as many as 7 times?"



How many times must I forgive him?



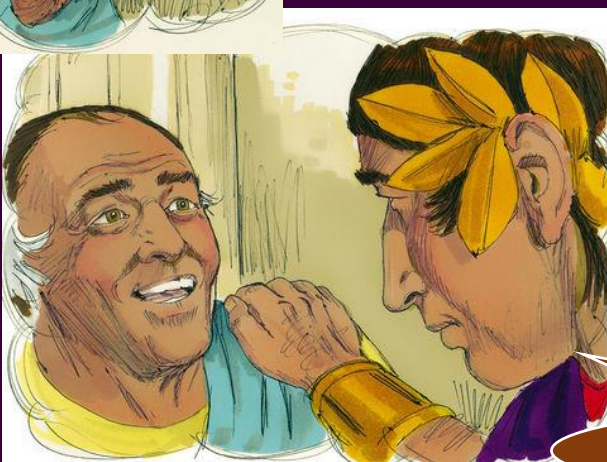
Jesus answered, "I tell you, you must forgive him more than 7 times. You must forgive him even if he does wrong to you 70 times 7. (some translations: 77 times)



"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him. So the king began to collect his money. One servant owed him several million dollars. But the servant did not have enough money to pay his master, the king. So the master ordered that everything the servant owned should be sold, even the servant's wife and children. The money would be used to pay the king what the servant owed.



I beg you...



"But the servant fell on his knees and begged, 'Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.' The master felt sorry for his servant. So the master told the servant he did not have to pay. He let the servant go free.

All debt cancelled!

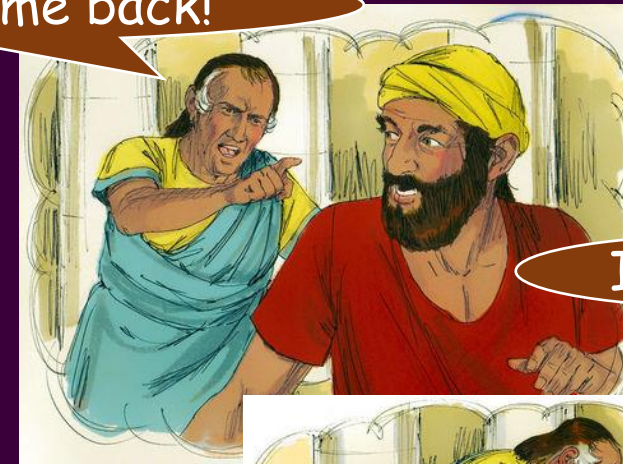


Hey you... Pay me back!

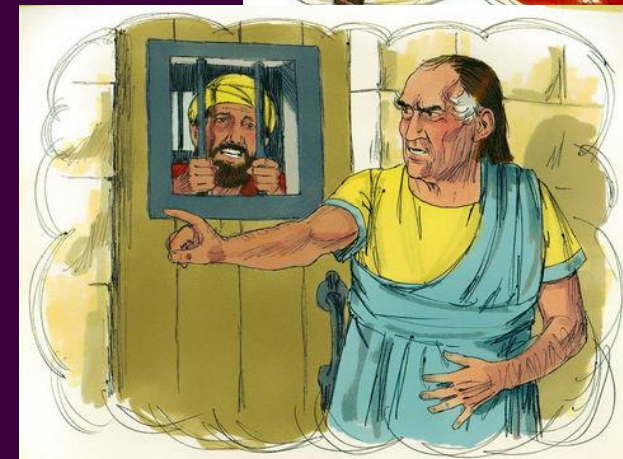
"Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him a few dollars. The servant grabbed the other servant around the neck and said, 'Pay me the money you owe me!'

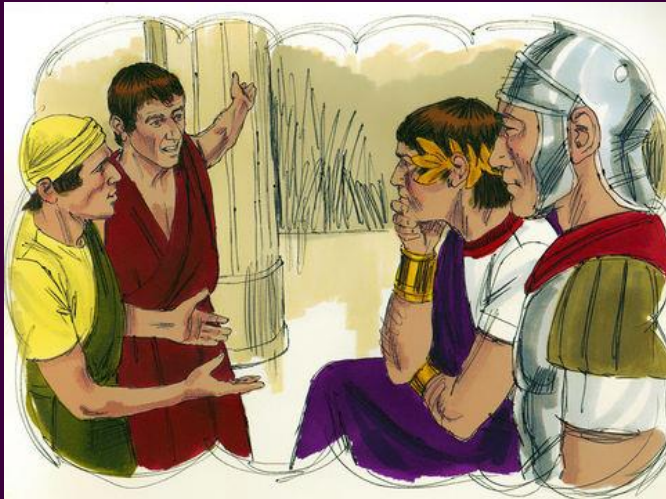
"The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.'

"But the first servant refused to be patient. He threw the other servant into prison until he could pay everything he owed. All the other servants saw what happened. They were very sorry. So they went and told their master all that had happened.



I beg you...





"Then the master called his servant in and said, 'You evil servant! You begged me to forget what you owed. So I told you that you did not have to pay anything. I had mercy on you. You should have had the same mercy on that other servant.' The master was very angry, and he put the servant in prison to be punished. The servant had to stay in prison until he could pay everything he owed.



"This king did what my heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

# Learn from King Jesus

- ❑ We forgive because forgiveness is God's nature
- ❑ God forgives us, so we who are forgiven, should also forgive
- ❑ But forgiveness (饶恕) is not the same as reconciliation (和好)
- ❑ One side can forgive but it takes both sides to reconcile

Learn from our King Jesus: He asked God to forgive those who nailed him to the cross



"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

# The Benefits of Forgiveness

## 1. **FORGIVENESS** restores peace

- ❑ However, the person hurting you may still not want to repent and reconcile with you



## 2. **FORGIVENESS** brings healing and restores health

- ❑ Proven by scientific studies (e.g. John Hopkins\*)

## 3. **FORGIVENESS** turns suffering into blessings

- ❑ Joseph was sold by his brothers to be a slave. He later became Egypt's prime minister and forgave them
- ❑ David forgave Saul and spared Saul's life in a cave. As a future king, David must learn how to forgive

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? **Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people,** as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. (Gen 50:19-21)



\*<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/forgiveness-your-health-depends-on-it>

# Forgiveness

To forgive someone requires the following...

- ❑ **Courage** - Forgiving others is not a sign of weakness. It is easy to hold a grudge but requires courage and strength to forgive
- ❑ **Trust in God** - Leave the matter with God who sees everything. So He is the perfect judge and avenger (Romans 12.19)
- ❑ **Release hatred** - Don't trap yourself in hatred. Instead, pray for the person who has wronged you
- ❑ **Move on** - Leave the burden behind. Allow yourself to move on with God

# Family Discussion

1. Peter asked Jesus if he should just forgive a person 7 times.
  - Why 7? (Hint: "7" in the Bible means perfect or complete)
  - Jesus answered 70x7 or 77 times. Does it mean there is no need to forgive when a person hurts you the 78<sup>th</sup> time?
  - What did Jesus mean by forgiving others 70x7 or 77 times?
2. The parable has 3 main characters: (i) The king, (ii) a servant who owed the king a lot of money, (iii) a servant who owed a little money.
  - Who does each of these 3 characters represent in real life?
3. Why did the king let the servant who owed him a lot of money go free?
  - Isn't that generosity...kind of crazy???
  - What do you learn about God's character?

# Family Discussion

4. The servant who was let go by the king met another servant who owed him small sum of money. What did he do with that servant who owed him money?
5. The king said, "You begged me to forget what you owed. So I told you that you did not have to pay anything. I had **mercy** on you. You should have had the same **mercy** on that other servant."
  - ❑ What did the king expect the servant who owed him money to do?
  - ❑ What does God's mercy have to do with forgiveness?
6. In the family we often hurt one another with what we say or do. Now spend a moment to think if you need to forgive someone in the family, or ask for forgiveness. What should you do?

# Courage and Forgiveness:

Watch the Incredible Story of Corrie Ten Boom

(You may want to complete the Family Worship before watching)



Torchlighters Episode #12 - The Corrie ten Boom Story



# Courage and Forgiveness - The Incredible Story of Corrie Ten Boom

<https://vimeo.com/401928330>



Corrie and her family were Christians living in the Netherlands. When the Nazis in Germany began to persecute the Jews, they hid them in their house.



However, their heroic work was discovered. Many family members were imprisoned and died.



After the war she met a guard who was particularly hostile to her back in the concentration camp... **Watch the film to discover what happened next...!**



# *Family Prayer Time*

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

# Freely Freely

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFV00VeKdlw>

