



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of February 26, 2023: Matthew 18:15-35

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:22: *Jesus said to him [Peter], "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."*

Craft

The Keys of Forgiveness

You will need: key templates (download), paper or card-stock
Make the number 77 out of keys. There are key templates that you can download for free. Have your child trace and cut them out and arrange in a 7 or 77. You could glue them on a sheet of paper to remind them how many times Jesus told us to forgive others.



The Story

In the Gospel story today, Jesus told a parable to remind us that God has given us a huge amount of forgiveness. God expects us to forgive others.

There was a man who owed a king a lot of money. He couldn't repay it and begged to be given more time to pay it back. The king took pity on him and erased the debt and said it was okay. However, that same man turned around to a friend who owed him just a little bit of money, and demanded that he be paid. This first man got so mad at the friend that he had that second man thrown into jail. The king heard this and was angry that the first man had not treated his friend with the same forgiveness he was shown. The king told the authorities to throw the first man in jail until he could pay his debt.



In the Lord's Prayer, we say forgive us our trespasses but some versions say forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Forgiving others doesn't mean

Activity:

Find the Keys

Do you have any extra keys that no longer go to anything you own? Hide keys and have your child find them. For younger children, hide them in relatively plain sight. Hide in a more difficult places for older children.

How Many?

Ask the children how many times they can do various tasks. "How many pushups can you do? How many times can you bounce a ping pong ball on a paddle? How many times can you bounce a hacky sack off your knee? How many free throws can you score in a row?" Have the children attempt these tasks. Ask if anyone can complete these tasks 77 times in a row without messing up. Let them try. The point of the game is to show that it is nearly impossible to do something 77 times. This idea ties in with today's lesson.

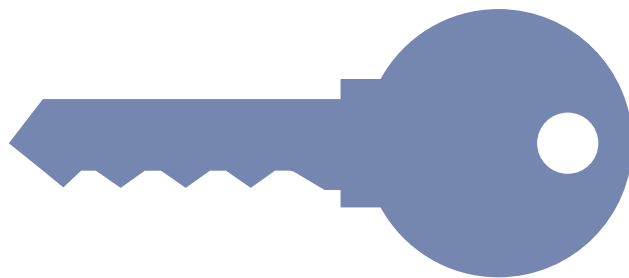
we let them hurt us or walk all over us. But it does mean recognizing God's mercy, and out of gratitude for that passing it along. Our forgiveness to others is never "perfect."

We struggle, and we need God's help even to show other people mercy. But we can take comfort in knowing that God's forgiveness wipes away our sins, things we've done and even things we don't know we're going to do yet! God will always renew and restore us.

Family discussion: Jesus says that if we see a problem with someone, we should talk just to them. Discuss how no one likes to be embarrassed in front of our friends. Can your child think of a time when they had someone tell them something in private? Maybe they had something stuck in their teeth. Can they think of a time when a teacher talked to a student away from the other children? The teacher was probably trying to correct a behavior but didn't want all the other children to hear.

Family Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for Jesus who teaches us about how you forgive us so that we can forgive each other. Amen.



(Selected content used & adapted ©2015 Spill the Beans Resource Team)