



## Family Worship Guide 20

### Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

#### Read the Scripture Aloud

Matthew 18:23-35 (ICB)

An adult should read the parable as written in scripture. We're using the *International Children's Version* of the Bible. Pause where there are questions in bold.

*"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. **What would you want to do if someone owed you millions of 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. **How do you think that made the servant feel?***

*"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. **How do you think the servant felt now?***

*"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!' **What do you think of the way the first servant acted?***

*"The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me. I will pay you everything I owe.' **What do you think the first servant is going to do now that this man is begging him to be patient about getting paid back?***

*"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. **What do you think the master is going to do?***

*"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. **Do you think the master did the right thing?***

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

#### Watch a Video of the Parable

Watch the video "Unforgiving Servant" by LifeKids.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7c976lrlek>

## **Talk Time**

- What is forgiveness? Forgiveness is when you decide to let go of wanting to get back at someone who has wronged you or hurt you in some way.
- Why do we forgive? First, we forgive because the Bible tells us to forgive. We also forgive over and over again because that is exactly what God does for us.
- What happens when we don't forgive? It actually harms us. The hurt and anger grows, and we suffer. Unforgiveness leads to friendships and relationships falling apart.

## **Passing on Forgiveness**

You will need some water balloons. Spread out appropriately according to the age and catching/tossing ability of your kids. Toss the water balloon. If they catch the balloon intact, the catcher says, "God wants me to forgive!" If they miss and the balloon falls to the ground and breaks, the intended catcher says, "Unforgiveness hurts."

## **Challenge**

Remember how God treats you, and then try to treat others the same way. God is willing to forgive you each time you ask for forgiveness. Can you pass that forgiveness on to someone else?

## **Science Experiment**

You will need: an egg (raw or boiled, whatever you feel comfortable with), glass, cola, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a piece of paper towel.

Place a raw egg in a glass of cola. Let the egg set in the cola for at least an hour, but 3 or 4 hours is even better. Pull the egg from the cola. Pat it dry with a piece of paper towel. The egg should be stained brown.

Put some toothpaste on a toothbrush. Your child should scrub the shell of the egg, like you would brush your teeth. Rinse and wipe the toothpaste from the egg using a damp cloth. (This is also a great exercise for kids who are just learning how to brush their teeth.)

- Describe the egg before you put it in the glass of cola.
- Describe the egg after setting in the cola for several hours.
- Describe the egg after you used the toothpaste and toothbrush on it.
- Was it easy or hard for the egg to get stained?
- Was it easy or hard for the egg to get clean?

## **Talk Time**

- Our egg had 3 stages: (1) the way it started out; (2) stained; and (3) cleaned. Which of these stages is a picture of when someone does something that upsets you or makes you angry?
- You have a choice. Are you going to throw the egg away because it's stained? Or are you going to do something to make it clean again?
- When someone does something mean to you, you have a choice. You have a decision to make. What do you think your choice is? (You can punish them or stay mad at them, OR you can forgive them for what they did to you.)

- Was it difficult for the egg to get stained? No, it just sat in the cola. It's really easy to find reasons to be upset with someone. What does someone else do that upsets you?
- How did the egg get cleaned up? We used some toothpaste and a brush to clean it? Was it difficult? No. We did two small actions—put the toothpaste on the brush and did a little scrubbing.
- How can you “clean up” a bad situation? It's not that difficult, if you're willing. It takes 2 steps: Ask God for help and forgive the other person.
- God is willing to forgive you over and over again. So, He expects you to forgive others over and over, just like He forgave you.

### **Action Step**

Each person should write down a time when someone has offended or wronged them. Put all the cards together. Draw a card and everyone tell if they would forgive, and/or what would be difficult about forgiving this person.

### **Pray Together**

*Dear God. Help me forgive others without holding back. I know this is what You want for my life. Help me make forgiveness something I'm willing to do over and over again. Amen.*

### **Play with Emojis**

Retell the story—or a life situation that needs forgiveness—using emojis. Design your own emojis and put each one on a separate card or piece of paper. Then, retell the story, holding up the appropriate emoji as you go.

