

St George's Family Devotion for Sunday, 24 May, 2020

Hi, everyone!

This Sunday we'll be continuing our series in both Grownup and Kids Church on the Lord's Prayer. Each week, we've been looking at a different line of the Lord's Prayer, and pairing it with another passage in the Bible that picks up on the ideas found in that particular part of the Prayer.

This week we're looking at the fifth petition in the Lord's Prayer: 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us'. What is forgiveness and why do we need it? Will God only forgive us to the extent that we've managed to forgive people who've hurt us?

In our family devotion before our time all together on Zoom, we'll be looking at Jesus' Parable of the Unmerciful Servant in Matthew 18:21-35, which raises those very questions in the form of a story.

For families to do before we catch up on Zoom

Read in Matthew 18:21-35, twice, as a family.

In your families, or with Lego or toys, have a go at acting out the scene Matthew paints for us in these verses.

Have a go at answering the discovery questions which we've been using over the last few weeks:

- (a) What does Matthew 18:21-35 tell me about God?
- (b) What does Matthew 18:21-35 tell me about people?
- (c) If Matthew 18:21-35 is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?
- (d) Who can I tell about Matthew 18:21-35?

Then, if your kids are a bit older, you might like to answer the following, more specific, questions:

- (a) What does it mean to forgive someone? What does it mean to forgive someone 'from your heart', as Jesus says in verse 35?
- (b) How much money is ten thousand talents, anyway? And what about a hundred denarii? Do either of the debtors in this story have a realistic hope of being able to pay back their debt?
- (c) What makes the first debtor look so bad in this story?
- (d) Will God only forgive us if we first forgive the people who've done the wrong thing by us?

Craft Suggestions

For younger kids: colour in the sheet provided below. Ask yourself: When are we sometimes like the unmerciful servant?

For older kids: have a go at doing the activity sheet provided. Ask yourself: What makes it hard for us to forgive others, even when they say sorry to us?

Instructions for Zoom Kids Church

1. After we've all logged on, I'll lead us in a kids talk on topic of the prayer, 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'
2. Then we'll split up into two groups, using the breakout function on Zoom: younger kids and their parents will share their craft and chat about their answers to the questions they answered as families, while kids in late-primary and early high school and their parents will chat with Anthea about what they got out of the passage.
3. We'll then finish in our smaller groups by praying for each other.

Looking forward to seeing you all this Sunday, and praying for you as you look at this part of God's word with each other!

In Christ,

Tristan

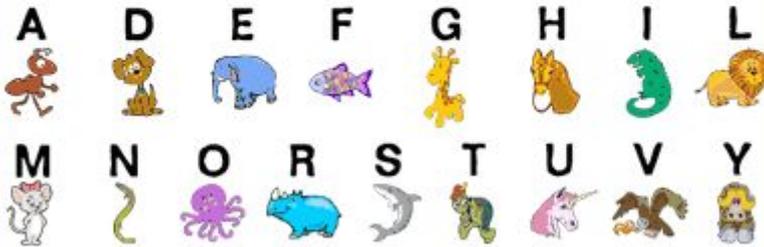
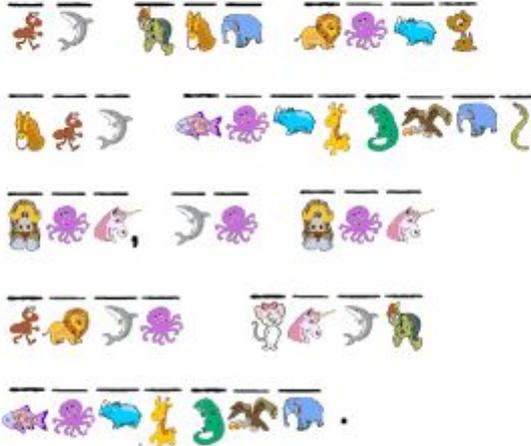


Seventy Times Seven

Peter asked Jesus if he should forgive someone seven times. Jesus answered, "Not seven times but seventy times seven."

We should go on-forgiving if a person is sorry for what he or she has done.

Use the code to find a verse about forgiveness. (See Col. 3:13.)



Name:

Date:

Discovery Bible Study

Passage:

Instructions:

- Pray to start: "Dear God, please teach us from this story. Amen."
- Have two people read the passage through, once each
- Have someone retell the story; act it out as a family, you could draw it in pictures, you could make a show with puppets or toys - whatever you would like. Help each other if you get stuck or miss something.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD/JESUS?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE?

WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS STORY?

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD IS SAYING TO YOU IN THIS STORY?

WHAT WILL YOU DO BECAUSE OF THIS STORY?

Who will you share this story with?



Pray

- **Dear God, thank you:** What are you thankful for this week?
- **Dear God, sorry:** Is there something you are sorry for this week?
- **Dear God, please:** What has been hard this week? What needs are there in our world?