

Forgiving others

Directions

1. There is a Powerpoint Presentation to go with this. Slide changes are in **brown**
2. At the beginning of the story you will need to divide your group into two
 1. Group 1 learns to say, “I’m really sorry”
 2. Group 2 learns to say, “Hey that’s OK!”
 3. I gave someone in each group a piece of paper with the relevant words on it. I asked them to hold it in such a way that everyone could see.
 4. Encourage your group to shout out the relevant phrases at the appropriate times
3. You will need a pile of things such as clean stones, or toy bricks, or something to display the concept of “a lot” and “a little”. This will try to show people a lot of money and a small amount of money.
 1. When you tip them out at the start of the story, keep one back!
4. A cover for the stones. I used a tea-towel.
5. I brought two hats, one for Bob and one for Fred. Two volunteers to sit at the front with their hats, and large pieces of paper with their names on for them to hold, caring people so all could see who was who!
6. Also a crown - whatever you have, and a volunteer to be a king, sitting somewhere accessible in the group. Details up to you!

Please Note: The story below is adapted from “Telling the Bible” by Bob Hartman, Monarch Books, 2006, ISBN: 978-1-85424-774-2, Page 145

Slide 1

Parable of the unforgiving servant

Define forgiveness.

Forgiveness is when:

- We stop feeling angry with the person who was nasty to us.
- When we stop wanting to punish the person who was nasty to us.

- And when we do everything she can to forget the nasty things that were done to us.

Matthew 18:21

Remind people of the “I’m really sorry” and “Hey, that’s OK!”

One of Jesus’ special friends was called Peter. Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Jesus, if someone is nasty to me, how many times shall I forgive that person? Shall I forgive that person seven times?” Peter thought that forgiving someone seven times was really great!

Jesus said to Peter, “No Peter, not just seven times, but seventy times seven.”

Peter tried to count that out on his fingers, but he soon realised that 70 x 7 was a HUGE number of times to forgive someone.

Jesus then told this story. “There was a king. **POINT TO THE KING** This king wanted to sort out all his money. The king wanted to get back all the money that he had lent to his servants.

One of the servants, called Bob, owed the king a HUGE amount of money. Lots and lots and lots. **TIP OUT A LARGE PILE OF STONES - remember to keep one back!**

But Bob was not able to pay, so the King ordered that Bob and Bob’s wife and Bob’s children and everything that Bob had, should be sold, so that Bob could pay back to the king everything that Bob owed the king.

Poor Bob. He had not got the money. What was Bob going to do? Bob fell on his knees before the king, and Bob said to the king: ‘*I’m really sorry*. Please be patient with me,’ Bob begged the king, ‘I will get the money and I will pay you back everything that I owe you.’

The King looked at Bob. The king felt sorry for Bob, and the King said, “*Hey, that’s OK!*”

The King cancelled the debt, and let Bob go! Bob did not have to pay the King ANYTHING! **COVER THE STONES**

Bob went home. Bob was so excited. He did not owe the king ANYTHING!

On the way home Bob saw another servant called Fred. Now Fred owed Bob a very small amount of money. Just a few pennies. **PUT ONE STONE IN FRONT OF BOB** Bob saw Fred and went up to Fred and said, “You owe me money. Pay me what you owe me, or I will put you in prison”

Fred was frightened. “*I’m really sorry,*” said Fred to Bob. And Fred begged Bob, “Please be patient with me, I will get the money and I will pay you back everything that I owe you”.

Now we need to remember that Bob had just be forgiven for a HUGE debt **UNCOVER THE LARGE PILE OF STONES STONES** so I wonder if Bob will forgive Fred for this tiny debt. **POINT TO MALL PILE OF STONES**

Well, Bob did not say, “*Hey, that’s OK.*” Instead Bob got Fred thrown into jail, just because Fred could not pay this small amount of money.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were really angry. This was not fair. The other servants went to see the king. The servants told the king everything that had happened.

“Then the king called Bob the servant to come and see the king. The king said to Bob, ‘You nasty unkind servant,’ I forgave you all the money you owed me, because you begged me to.

You should have forgiven Fred his debt too. I was good to you. Why were you not good to Fred?’

The king was so angry with Bob, that the king sent Bob to prison until Bob could pay back the King ALL the money he owed the King.

And Jesus said, “God is like that King. We say to God, ‘I am sorry’ lots and lots of times. And God forgives us. God says, “*Hey, that’s OK*” And God really wants us to forgive each other just like that - over and over and over - 70 x 7!

“Wow!” said Peter. “*I’m really sorry. I did not understand that!*”

And Jesus smiled and said, “*Hey! that’s OK*”

How you end this is really up to you. We did it in the context of a series of three services. The first tow talked about how much God forgives us, so this is the sort of thing we used to summarise:

This month we have been learning that **God forgives us**. Over and over and over again. This story that Jesus told shows us that God wants us to **forgive other people** - over and over and over again!

Sometimes that will be easy. Sometimes that will be VERY hard. But with God’s help we CAN forgive others.

Define forgiveness again

Forgiveness is when

Pics are in presentation

- Forgiveness is when we stop feeling **angry** with the person who was nasty to us
- Forgiveness is when when we stop wanting to **punish** the person who was nasty to us. We do not want to ‘get even’ or ‘get our own back’ or ‘pay them back’

- Forgiveness is when we do everything she can to **forget** the nasty things that were done to us.

Next slide

(This slide comes up with the bad, and the next click rubs it out)

Forgiveness is when that nasty and **bad thing is rubbed out!**

Last slide

So when people do nasty things to us, or people make us cross, or say bad things about us, we need to ask God to help us to keep on forgiving, in the same way that God goes on forgiving us over and over again.

Prayer

Thank you Jesus that you forgive us over and over and over again. Help us to forgive each other over and over and over again. Help us to forgive even when it is hard. In Jesus name, Amen