

# FORGIVEN



**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

*A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.*

*USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON*



**TALK TOGETHER**

Family conversations with God's Word.



**MORE TO EXPLORE**

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



**THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET**

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



**COLORING PAGE**

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



**WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU LOVE TO RECEIVE BUT STRUGGLE TO GIVE? MAYBE A FAVORITE CHOCOLATE BAR OR TOY?**

As humans, forgiveness is something we love to receive but struggle to give. The Bible tells Christians to forgive as Christ forgave us!

One time, one of Jesus's disciples, Peter, asked how many times he should forgive someone. Peter thought forgiving someone seven times would be enough. To Peter's surprise, Jesus tells him he should forgive seventy times seven times!

That's a lot of forgiveness! By giving Peter that high number, Jesus showed him – and us – there is no limit to how much we should forgive.

Then, Jesus shared a story with Peter about a servant who owed his master a great debt. **Let's read what happened in Matthew chapter 18, verses 21-27.**



**CONT...** →

TALK TOGETHER

**THEN PETER CAME UP AND SAID TO HIM, "LORD, HOW OFTEN WILL MY BROTHER SIN AGAINST ME, AND I FORGIVE HIM? AS MANY AS SEVEN TIMES?" JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I DO NOT SAY TO YOU SEVEN TIMES, BUT SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES. THEREFORE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAY BE COMPARED TO A KING WHO WISHED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HIS SERVANTS. WHEN HE BEGAN TO SETTLE, ONE WAS BROUGHT TO HIM WHO OWED HIM TEN THOUSAND TALENTS. AND SINCE HE COULD NOT PAY, HIS MASTER ORDERED HIM TO BE SOLD, WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ALL THAT HE HAD, AND PAYMENT TO BE MADE. SO THE SERVANT FELL ON HIS KNEES, IMPLORING HIM, 'HAVE PATIENCE WITH ME, AND I WILL PAY YOU EVERYTHING.' AND OUT OF PITY FOR HIM, THE MASTER OF THAT SERVANT RELEASED HIM AND FORGAVE HIM THE DEBT."**

**MATTHEW 18:21-27**

After experiencing such forgiveness, you would think the servant would want to forgive too. He didn't. Instead, he left that meeting, found a person who owed him money and demanded he pay him! When the other man couldn't repay the servant, the servant had him put in jail!

Later, when the master found out the servant he forgave could not forgive others, he became angry. He had the servant put in jail until the servant could pay him back.

Jesus offers complete forgiveness to everyone. When we choose to forgive, we share the love of Jesus with another person. Forgiveness feels great to receive but can be hard to give. Thankfully, we can ask Jesus for His strength to do what's right. He will help us to forgive others just like He forgives us.



END OF TALK TOGETHER

# \* MORE TO EXPLORE

## GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING  
GOD CREATED  
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,  
AND SIN PASSED TO  
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN  
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF  
US ARE SINNERS,  
CHRIST DIED  
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL  
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

### MATTHEW

The book of Matthew is the first book in the New Testament and written by Matthew (also called Levi), one of Jesus' disciples and a former tax collector. The book of Matthew was written to show that Jesus truly is the Messiah, God's chosen One, spoken of throughout the Old Testament.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M HAVING A HARD TIME FORGIVING SOMEONE?

Talk to Jesus! We can't do good apart from Him. Ephesians chapter 6 introduces us to the armor of God. We learn that as believers, we should be in constant prayer, asking the Lord to guide us. He will give us the strength we need to extend forgiveness to others.

### OT-NT CONNECTION

Forgiveness isn't a theme unique to the New Testament. In the Old Testament book of Jonah, God shows us forgiveness on a large scale. He forgives an entire city! Look up **Jonah 3:6-10** to see how God demonstrated forgiveness to Jonah and the Ninevites.

- What happened when the Ninevites repented and asked for forgiveness?
- How can you practice forgiveness in your own life like Jesus showed us?

### JOURNAL

Write about or act out the parable of the unforgiving servant! (Matthew 18:23-34)

Think about why the servant refused to forgive when his master forgave him. How can you avoid being like the unforgiving servant?

### WHAT IF SOMEONE REPEATEDLY WRONGS ME AFTER I FORGIVE THEM?

There is no limit on the forgiveness we should extend to others. However, that does not mean we abandon wisdom. In fact, the book of Proverbs repeatedly tells us to be wise. Ephesians 5 instructs Christians to walk with the Lord and stay away from sinful actions. If someone chooses to sin against us, we can forgive them and *walk away* from them and their harmful actions. If someone is hurting you, talk to a responsible adult who can help.

### READ



Finish reading the parable of the unforgiving servant. (Matthew 18:21-35)

Compare and contrast the responses of the forgiving master and the unforgiving servant.

# ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

## ♥ MEMORIZE

*BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.*

**EPHESIANS 4:32**

**Q:** HOW DO I FORGIVE OTHERS?

**A:** AS CHRIST FORGAVE ME.

## SHARE

Tell your kids about a time you struggled forgiving someone but decided to forgive them anyway.

Explain how God gave you the strength to forgive.

## WATCH



Watch this week's Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

## PRAY

**DEAR JESUS, TODAY WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP FORGIVING OTHERS LIKE YOU FORGIVE US. PLEASE HELP US TO BE MORE LIKE YOU. THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING OUR SINS AND SHOWING US HOW TO FORGIVE OTHERS. AMEN.**

## FIND

This week's passage is found in the book of Matthew. Help your child find the book of Matthew. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there? Who was this book written by?

## DO

Put it into practice! Ask your child to come up with three ways they can practice forgiveness. Have them write "1," "2" and "3" on a piece of paper and then help them write down the three ideas they came up with.

Hang their forgiveness ideas on the fridge to remind them throughout the week to practice forgiveness.

## CREATE

Gather markers and a piece of paper. Write the word "forgiveness" at the top of the paper.

Ask your child what comes to mind when they think of the word forgiveness.

Let their imagination take over! Ask them to draw what they thought of on the piece of paper and then discuss why that image reminds them of forgiveness.

## DOES FORGIVING SOMEONE MEAN THEY DON'T GET IN TROUBLE FOR THEIR SIN?

No. There are still consequences for the wrong things people do. In chapter 12 of the New Testament book of Romans, we read that vengeance belongs to God, not us. We can and should extend forgiveness to those who hurt us and trust that our just God will take care of the wrongs committed against His children.

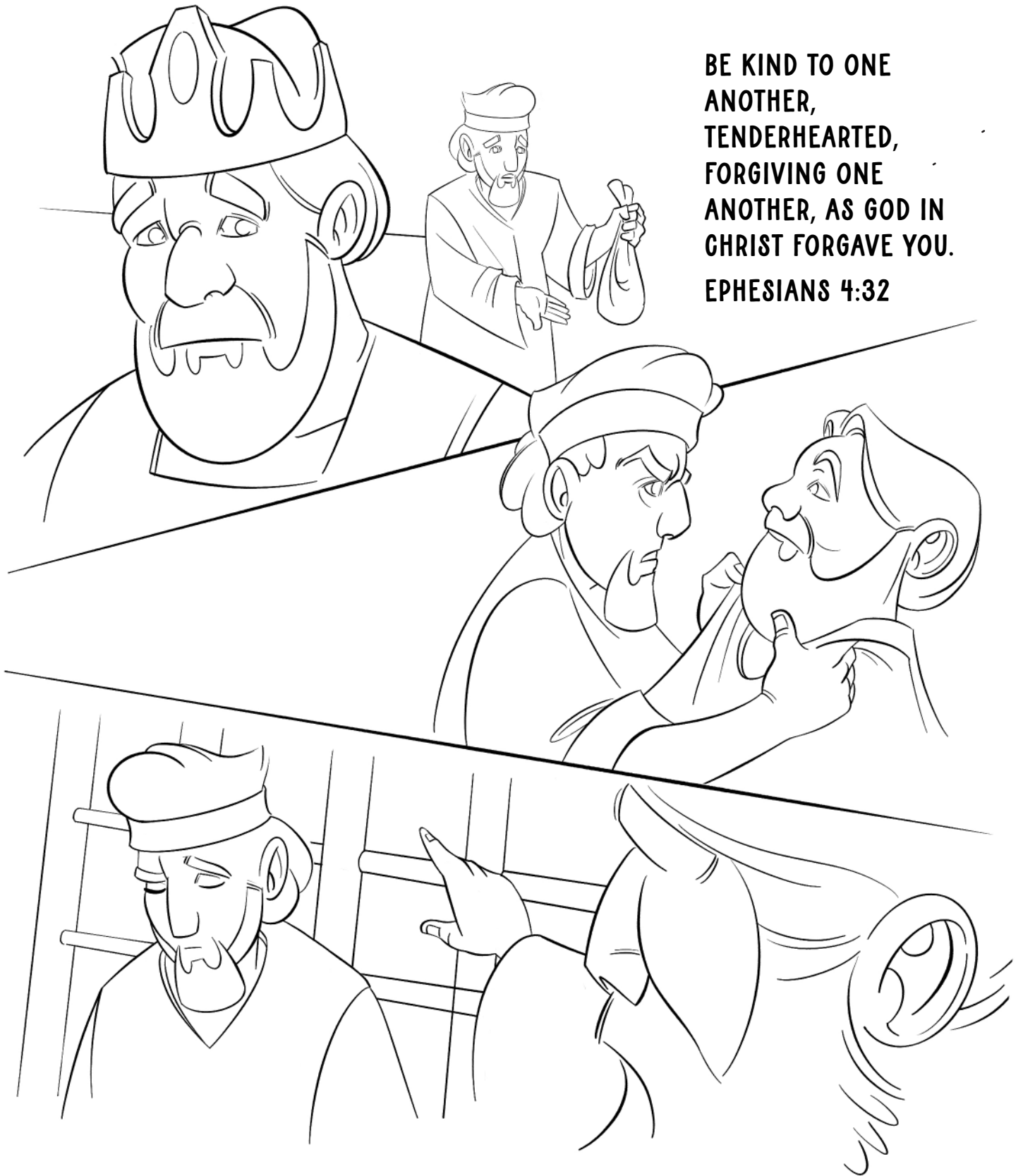


SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

## SING

Listen to this playlist throughout the series to praise God for His forgiveness!

**BE KIND TO ONE  
ANOTHER,  
TENDERHEARTED,  
FORGIVING ONE  
ANOTHER, AS GOD IN  
CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.  
EPHESIANS 4:32**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_