

Topic: Losing Count (The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

Ages 4-6

Goals:

1. To teach children the importance of forgiving others as Jesus forgives us.
 2. To help children understand that forgiveness is a continual choice, not a one-time event.
 3. To connect the parable to the Gospel and Jesus' ultimate act of forgiveness on the cross.
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Welcome Time: (10 minutes)

- Greet each child warmly as they arrive.
- Provide a simple activity, such as coloring a picture of two friends hugging, symbolizing reconciliation.
- Encourage children to share a time they forgave someone or were forgiven.

Worship/Prayer Time: (10 minutes) [click here](#)

- Sing songs about forgiveness and God's love, such as:
 - "Jesus Loves Me" "Amazing Grace"

Memory Verse:

- **Colossians 3:13 (NIV):** "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Lesson:

Opening Activities: (10 minutes)

- **Game:** "Pass the Forgiveness Ball" - Children sit in a circle and pass a ball while saying something like, "I forgive you for..." The child holding the ball when the music stops shares how they can forgive someone.
- **Object Lesson:** Use a backpack filled with heavy books. Explain that holding onto unforgiveness is like carrying a heavy burden. Forgiveness helps us let go and feel lighter.



The Unforgiving Servant

There was once a man who owed the king a lot of money. But, he didn't have any money to pay.

The king said he and his family would have to become slaves to pay the debt.

The man begged for mercy.

1



The king forgave the man of his massive debt.

The man went to another man that owed him a little bit of money.

He grabbed him and told him he wanted his money back right away.

2



The second man also didn't have any money.

The man begged for a little bit more time to pay the debt.

But instead of forgiving the man, he threw him into jail.



The king couldn't believe what the man did.

He had been forgiven of so much but could not forgive a little.

The king ordered the man to go to prison.

Jesus said that we should forgive others because He has forgiven us.

4

Discussion Questions: (10 minutes)

1. Why was the king upset with the unforgiving servant?
2. How do you think the other servants felt when they saw what happened?
3. What does this story teach us about how we should treat others?
4. Why is it hard to forgive sometimes?
5. How can we show forgiveness to others, just like Jesus does for us?

Gospel Connection Point: (5 minutes)

- Explain that Jesus forgave all our sins when He died on the cross. Just as the king forgave the servant, Jesus forgives us no matter how big our sins are. When we forgive others, we are showing the same love and mercy Jesus shows us.

Conclusion: (5 minutes)

- Summarize the lesson: Forgiveness is a choice we make every day to reflect Jesus' love and mercy. When we forgive, we are free to live without the burden of anger or resentment.
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Activities: (15 minutes)

- **Craft:**
 - Create a "Forgiveness Chain." Each child writes on strips of paper ways they can forgive others and connects them into a chain.
 - **Role-Playing:**
 - Act out scenarios where forgiveness is needed, such as a friend breaking a toy or saying something mean. Discuss and practice forgiving responses.
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Closing Prayer: (5 minutes) [Click Here](#)

- Pray together, thanking God for His forgiveness and asking for help to forgive others.

Snack Time: (10 minutes)

Take-Home Activity: [Click here](#)

- A summary of the lesson with discussion points for parents: