

March 15 2020

Church in your living room with your family during this time is a very unique opportunity for you to lead your children in their faith journey and we've got some tools for you.

- 1) Worship | If you've got a smart tv, pick a few worship songs off Youtube to sing together. Maybe each person in your family can take a turn picking their favorite song
- 2) Examen: Click [here](#)
- 3) Lesson: **The Unmerciful Servant**

Scripture:

Matthew 18:23-35

Main Point: God has forgiven us, we can forgive others.

Read Matthew 18:23-35

Sometimes in life, people make us mad, don't they? What have others done to make you mad? What have you done to make others mad? (discuss as a family)

Now, when somebody treats us badly—maybe they call us a name or talk about us behind our back—how do we usually react? (Let kids respond.) Sure, we get mad. Maybe we even try to get back.

When somebody makes us mad, we sometimes try to get even, don't we!? And in a movie it can be funny(try to think of a movie situation where one character tried to "get back" at another and it ended up being funny). The truth is, that's not how Jesus taught us to live. Jesus taught us to forgive people. In fact, one of Jesus' disciples, Peter, said, "Lord, how many times do I have to forgive someone who hurts me or does something mean to me? Do I have to forgive him 7 times?"

Guess what Jesus said? He said, "Not just seven! Seventy-seven!" Jesus wasn't really telling us to keep count. Fortunately, he also told us WHY we should forgive.

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

He showed us why through a parable. Ask your kiddos if they remember what a parable is? Yes, it's a story that teaches us a lesson. This story teaches us why we should forgive.

See, there's a king in this story, and he's like God! There's a servant in this story, and he's like us. As you watch, see if you can figure out why the king gets mad at the servant:

[Video:](#) The Unjust Servant

So did you figure out why the king got so mad at the servant? (talk about it) Yes, the servant was forgiven by the king: he didn't have to pay back the millions of silver he owed. But then, he turned around and demanded to get paid back a hundred silver coins from another guy. If the KING could forgive the servant owing him a million dollars, the servant should forgive a hundred!

WE FORGIVE BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN FORGIVEN

So if the king is like God and the servant is like us, why should WE forgive? (share thoughts) Well, we are like that servant. God has forgiven us. He sent Jesus to take our punishment—we are completely free. God chose to forgive us because he loves us and He desires that we also forgive the people in our lives.

Remember our verse:

Matthew 22:37-38: Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

That might sound hard to do. But when we remember all God did for us, we'll want to forgive others too. That's not easy in a world where people hurt us. We get frustrated when we get treated badly. And yet we've done the wrong things too. And when we focus on being thankful that God forgave us, we can forgive others.

Discussion questions:

a. Why do you think the servant choked the man who owed him a hundred dollars? Why is it so hard for us to forgive?

b. Why did the king get so angry at the servant for not forgiving? Why does God want us to forgive, no matter how many times someone hurts us?

c. Why is it hard sometimes to ask for forgiveness or to forgive someone else? Do you sometimes just want to stay mad? How does choosing to stay mad hurt your relationship with others? (let everyone share thoughts)

d. How do you ask for forgiveness and forgiveness within your family? Is this something we can work on as a family together? Talk about some words/phrases you can use to practice asking for forgiveness within your family.

*Pray together, thanking God for his forgiveness and asking him to help us forgive.