



# Walk As Jesus Did

A study for children on the life of Jesus

## Family Devotional (5/10/20)

**Key Point:** God's children forgive others as God has forgiven them.

*Today, we want our kids to look at Jesus' teaching on forgiveness from Matthew 18:21-35. Forgiveness means releasing someone from their wrong. God forgives fully, freely, and forever and His children do the same.*

### What we want the kids to know:

- God forgives His children and has mercy on sinners because of Jesus.
- Forgiveness is not just words, but comes from a humble heart.
- God forgives fully, freely, and forever; God's children should forgive in the same way.
- Forgiveness is releasing someone from their wrong.

### What we want the kids to do:

- Walk like Jesus did:
  - The response to receiving forgiveness from Jesus should be forgiving others.
  - Develop greater gratitude for the mercy Jesus offers.
  - Repent and then extend the forgiveness they receive to others, even those who don't deserve it.

**Text for Study:** Matthew 18:21-35.

**Create discipleship time:** As a family, spend time reading and talking about God's Word.

**Open to and read Matthew 18:21-27 aloud to your kids.**

1. What did Jesus tell Peter to do in this passage?  
He tells Peter to forgive 77 times.
2. What does it mean to forgive?  
Forgiveness is releasing someone from their wrong. When you release something, you set it free. So, when you release someone from their wrong, you set them free from the guilt of their mistake or wrong.

Review the first part of the parable. Have your kids match the characters/events of the story with their meanings:

The King: God.

The King's servant: us.

Debt of the King's servant: our sin.

Response of the King – canceled the debt: God forgives us.



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3. Did the servant owe the King a small amount of money or a large amount?  
A very large amount of money. The servant owed more than he would ever be able to pay back.
4. When the King asked for the money, could the servant repay him?  
No. He begged for more time.
5. Did the King punish the servant?  
No, he canceled (or forgave) the debt of the servant.
6. Did the King have to forgive the servant's debt?  
No. No one made the King forgive the debt. He forgave, because he was compassionate and took pity on the servant. He forgave, because he wanted to.
7. Did the King forgive just part of the servant's debt or all of it?  
All of it. He forgave fully.
8. In the story, the King is like God and the servant is like us. We sin against God and deserve punishment. What is the punishment that we deserve for our sin?  
Death and separation from God.
9. What did God do to rescue us from our sin?  
He sent Jesus to live a perfect life, free from sin, and die on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for sin.
10. If Jesus had not died on the cross, would we ever be able to make up for our sin and gain forgiveness?  
No. There are not enough good things we could ever do to make up for our sin. Only Jesus is stronger than sin.
11. When Jesus died on the cross, did He die for only some of our sin or all of it?  
All of it

## Continue reading the parable aloud to your kids: Matthew 18:28-33

Have your kids review the second part of the narrative; then, match the characters/events of the story with their meanings:

Fellow servant: other people.

Debt of fellow servant: when other sin against or hurt us.

Response of the King's servant – "pay or jail!": we refuse to forgive others.

1. In the first part of the story, we saw the King forgive the servant of his debt just like God forgives His children of their sins. What did the servant do right after the King forgave him and freed him?  
He found another servant who owed him money.
2. Did the other servant owe him a small amount of money or a large amount of money?  
A small amount.
3. When the other servant couldn't pay back the money, what did the first servant do?  
Had him thrown in prison until he could pay back the money.
4. Did the first servant forgive his fellow servant?  
No.



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5. Was that right or wrong? How did the King respond when he heard what had happened?  
It was wrong for the first servant to not forgive his fellow servant. The King was angry with the first servant.
6. Why was the King angry?  
Because the King had forgiven the large amount the first servant owed, and then that servant failed to show the same kindness to his fellow servant.
7. What should the first servant have done to his fellow servant?  
Forgiven him of his debt, just like he had been forgiven.
8. What does this story teach us about how we are to act towards those who sin against or hurt us?  
We are to forgive as we have been forgiven.
9. God forgives freely, fully, and forever. How should God's children forgive others who sin against them?  
In the same way – fully, freely and forever.
10. Should we say we forgive someone but still be mean or angry with them in our hearts?  
No, we need to forgive with our hearts, not just our words.
11. Is it always easy to forgive others when they hurt us?  
No. Sometimes it is very difficult to forgive.
12. When we are having a hard time forgiving others, what can we do?  
Remember the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross to save us from our sin.  
Pray and ask God to give us humble, loving hearts to forgive those who hurt us.  
Be honest with someone we trust that we are having a hard time forgiving from our hearts.

**\*\*Additional passages for family study:** Colossians 1:13-14; 3:12-13.

**Capture discipleship moments:** Recap by asking your kids what they learned.

1. What did we learn about God today?  
God forgives the sin of those who love and trust Jesus.
2. What did we learn about ourselves today?  
I should forgive those who have done wrong to me.

**Pray together as a family.** Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Assign someone to pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

### **This Month's Memory Verse**

*But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Luke 6:27-28*