



**January 31, 2021**  
**The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**  
**Matthew 18:21-35**  
**Prepared by Jeana Jones**

I hope you enjoyed the Parable of the Sower last week. Jesus taught us a very important lesson about preparing the soil in our hearts so that the seed of His word can grow in us and help us do good things for Him. This week, we are going to hear another one of Jesus' parables. Remember, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. That means Jesus has something He wants to teach us about Himself and how we can live our best life as part of His kingdom.

As you watch the video and do the lesson for this week, let's put into practice the things we learned in the parable last week. Let's do our best to understand what Jesus is telling us. Ask an adult for help if you need it. Let's set aside a special time for Jesus and remove the rocks and things that would distract us. Let's get rid of the thorns, or worries, in our life by beginning our time in prayer. Let's be ready to grow and do the things Jesus wants us to do.

Dear Jesus,

Help me to understand the message you want me to learn today. Bless this time I am spending with you. Take my worries away and help me to trust in you. Help me to see how I can use this message in my life to be the person you want me to be. Amen.

Let's get started with a video on the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant:

<https://youtu.be/ED3fzkS-bhA>

**Read Matthew 18: 23-24**

How much did the first servant owe the king?

**Read Matthew 18:28**

How much did the second servant owe the first servant?

Who owed the most, or had the biggest debt—the most to pay back?

Right! The first servant owed the king much more than the second servant owed him.

**Read Matthew 18:27**

What did the king do for the servant? Do you think the servant deserved that?

**Read Matthew 18:28-30**

How did the first servant (the one who had his debt forgiven by the king) treat the second servant? Was this how the king treated him?

This parable has a very important lesson for us. Jesus is our King. He has canceled all of our debt by forgiving all of the sins we have ever done and even those we will do in the future. That's a pretty big debt. We don't deserve that. It is a gift from Him because He loves us.

The second servant is like a friend or family member who does something wrong to us. Jesus wants us to forgive them, just as He forgave us. He doesn't say this will be easy, but He says this is what is best for us.

**Read Matthew 18:32-35**

When we can't forgive, we hurt our friends and family and we also hurt ourselves. Jesus doesn't want that for us. He wants us to be able to enjoy being with our friend, brother, sister, or Mom or Dad again. Jesus gives us the gift of forgiveness and He also gives us the power to share His gift with others. The person who hurt us doesn't have to deserve our forgiveness.

Jesus has taken their sins away, just like He took our sins away. If we have the forgiveness and love of Jesus in our hearts, that's enough to share with others, too.

Is there someone who has hurt you or done mean things to you? Do you want to forgive them? If you don't, remember the love and forgiveness that Jesus has for you, even though you don't deserve it. Say a prayer and ask Jesus to help you forgive and be kind to the other person, even when he or she doesn't deserve it. Remember, this person may be unkind to you again. If that happens, just keep asking Jesus, and maybe another adult, for help to forgive. Jesus is an expert at forgiveness and He is always there to help.

**Prayer:**

Dear God,  
Thank you for sending Jesus to forgive me for all of the wrong things I do. Help me to forgive others, even when they don't deserve it. Help me to be kind and to love others like you love me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The following activities are linked with this lesson:

**Forgiveness Hidden Message**

**Jesus Teaches Me to Forgive Coloring Page**

**The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Coloring Page**

**Keep on Forgiving Spiral Puzzle**

**Keep on Forgiving Word Search**