

ALLEY SG – July 18th- 19th, 2026

Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Conversation Starter: What and who do you need to forgive?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, Paper, Marker, 2 buzzers

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 18:21-35 and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Review the parable of the servant who had no mercy by sharing these key points:
 - Peter asked Jesus how many times he needed to forgive someone.
 - Jesus answered, and then He told a story to share how God's kingdom works.
 - In the story, a king decided to get everyone who owed him debts to pay him.
 - One servant had a huge debt and begged and begged the king for time to pay.
 - Instead of making the servant pay back the humongous debt, the king forgave it! Completely!
 - But that same servant had someone who owed him a little debt.
 - Instead of forgiving the person who owed him, like the servant had been forgiven, that servant put the person who owed him in prison and demanded that he pay him his tiny debt.
 - The king heard that the servant wouldn't forgive the person who owed him, and the king was so upset. He threw the servant in jail until he could pay his huge debt.
 - Jesus said that we should forgive people who hurt us because we have been forgiven of so much.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Ask the teams to come up with a team name.
- On the paper, create two columns, and write the team names at the top of the columns.
- Position the bells/buzzers on either end of the table.
- Have one person from each team come to the front and stand by their team's bell/buzzer.
- Explain you're going to play "Kingdom Feud."
- Read a review question from the list below. The first person to hit the buzzer gets to answer.
 - According to Peter, how many times should you forgive someone? (*seven times*)
 - In the parable, how much did the first servant owe the king? (*a huge amount/ten thousand bags of gold*)
 - Did the king make the servant pay it back? (*No, he canceled the debt.*)
 - How much did the second servant owe the first servant? (*a small amount/100 silver coins*)
 - What did the first servant do to the second servant? (*choked him/threw him in jail*)
- If they get the answer right, their team gets a point. If they get the answer wrong, the other team gets a chance to steal. Record each team's points on the paper.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Index cards, Coloring supplies

What You Do:

If possible, ask the kids to spread out and find a quiet space in the room.

- Give each kid an index card and some coloring supplies.
- Ask kids to think quietly for a minute about the Conversation Starter: “What and who do you need to forgive?”
- Tell them they don’t have to share this with anyone. This is between them and God.
- Instruct them to write down the person or situation on one side of the card. They can write a name, a word, or draw a symbol.
- Give them a minute of quiet to sit with that thought and talk to God about it.
- After that quiet moment with God, ask them to flip the card over. On the other side, invite them to write or draw what they need to do or who they need to forgive.
- Give them another minute of quiet to sit with that thought and talk to God about it.

Say: “Forgiving someone doesn’t mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. It doesn’t even mean you have to keep being friends with them. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust!”

Forgiving someone says you’re trusting God to make things right. And when you forgive, it frees *you* from staying angry and becoming hard and bitter. Forgiveness isn’t a feeling, it’s a choice. And when you ask God for help and choose to forgive, you are showing your world God’s good heart of forgiveness. And God will do great kingdom things when you choose to forgive.”

3. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus used a story about money and debt instead of just saying, “Forgive each other.”?
- What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to understand by saying “77 times”?
- Why did Jesus compare our sin to a huge debt that we could never pay back?
- The first servant probably thought the king’s mercy was awesome—until he was asked to show mercy himself. Why is it sometimes easy to accept forgiveness but hard to give it?
- What does this story teach us about what God is like?
- What and who do you need to forgive?

4. Memory Verse Roll

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: a soft ball (one per group)

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
- Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
- Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17*
- Give one kid the ball.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
-  “God, thank You for the story Jesus told. It’s a hard story to hear because it shows us how much we need Your help to forgive. Thank You for forgiving us for our huge debt of sin. Help us to be people who pass that forgiveness on to others. When it’s hard, remind us of Your great mercy for us. We want Your kingdom to grow. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for a PRIZE!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to say what they learned about forgiveness.