

PONDER POINT: GOD FORGIVES

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21–35

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- Rabbinic tradition held that a person should forgive another three times.
- Jesus taught, in contrast to Rabbinic teaching, that we shouldn't number the amount of times we offer forgiveness to others.
- The servant in this story owed the king more money than he could have ever repaid to him.
- Through this parable, Jesus taught that we can't compare what we owe and what we've been forgiven.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Play Peak and Pit, but instead of sharing the best and worst parts of your day, share about a person who blessed you recently and a person who upset you— someone you may need to forgive. Share with your children that God calls us to forgive others. Read together **Matthew 18:21–35**. How many times did Jesus tell Peter we should forgive someone? Discuss why the master was upset with his servant. Talk about options for forgiving the person who hurt you (from the Peak and Pit game). Explain that God continues to forgive us and wants us to do the same to others.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- How did the king show mercy to his servant?
- How has God shown you forgiveness?
- Who can you show forgiveness to today?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God forgives us into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up on compassion.

For the LORD is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him!

Isaiah 30:18

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you know God's forgiveness this week. May you forgive others as He has forgiven you.**