



Lesson 22

Pass It On!

Large Group Lesson & Games

Bible Story

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Bible Verse

“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:32, New Living Translation

Key Teaching Point

Those who’ve been forgiven, forgive others.

Materials

- A Bible
- 50 small paper cups



Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

As you read the following story-poem, invite the children to participate in the following motions when the word is referenced:

- Forgiveness -> Start with clenched fists and then open them to symbolize letting go.
- Debt-> Rub your fingers together.
- Mercy -> Grab your wrist and then let go.
- Prison -> Make an X across your chest.
- Please, Pleas, Pleaded -> Get down on one knee and fold your hands like your pleading for help.

**In a kingdom long ago, a story unfolds,
Of a servant with DEBTS, a tale yet untold.
He owed his king a great sum of gold,
A DEBT too big, his future was sold!**

**He knelt down low, on bended knees,
PLEASE, my Lord, have MERCY, hear my PLEAS!
I can't repay, I'm begging you, PLEASE,
FORGIVE my DEBT and set my heart at ease!**

**The kind king's heart was moved with grace,
He looked upon the servant's tear-streaked face.
"I FORGIVE your DEBT, it's gone, no trace.
Go in peace now, feel my love's embrace."**

**With joy in his heart, the servant was free,
But soon, he forgot the king's decree.
He met a friend, who owed him, you see,
Demanded the DEBT, showed no sympathy.**

**The friend PLEADED, eyes filled with tears,
"Give me more time, I'll make sure it clears,
PLEASE have MERCY, let go of your fears,
I promise to repay in the coming years."**

**But the servant's heart was hard, oh so cold,
He refused to show MERCY, be kind and bold.
He threw his friend into a PRISON'S hold,**



Forgetting the MERCY he was once bestowed.

**The news reached the king, made him frown,
His anger rose, his judgement came down.
You wicked servant, your heart's turned down,
For your lack of MERCY, you'll face your own crown.**

**He sent the servant to the PRISON'S den,
No more freedom, no more joyful amen.
For if you won't FORGIVE, and show kindness when,
You'll miss out on FORGIVENESS time and again.**

**So children, remember this tale so true,
Be kind and FORGIVING in all that you do.
Forgive others' mistakes, let your hearts shine through,
And receive FORGIVENESS, a gift meant for you.**

**In this story, the servant had a debt that was impossible to repay.
How much money do you think that is?**

Take student responses.

The Bible tells us that in this story that Jesus told, the debt the first servant owed was more than a lifetime of wages!

That doesn't seem possible, does it? This incredible detail tells us that Jesus isn't just telling this story to connect to our financial debts, but our spiritual debts we incur by the sin inside of us. The Bible tells us that the wage of sin is death, and this debt is more than we could ever repay.

We sin against God, but we also sin against one another. When someone hurts or harms us, we often try to seek revenge or hope that they get the punishment they deserve. Yet God showed us mercy and released us from the punishment we deserve, calling us out to share that same forgiveness we've received with others.

We'll talk about this more in our small groups.

Dismiss children to their small groups.



Large Group Games

(20-25 Minutes)

FOLLOW THE LEADER

No materials needed.

Sit all the children in a circle. Send one child out of the room. That child will have to guess who the leader is. While the “guesser” is out of the room, select another child to be the “leader.” Welcome the “guesser” back into the room as the leader performs different actions or movements (e.g. run in place, do jumping jacks, turn around, take three steps forward, etc.) that the other children in the circle must copy. The guesser will try to identify who is the leader. Play multiple rounds if time allows.

Story connection: **If Jesus forgives, then so do we.**

CUPS COMPETITION

Materials: 50 small paper cups

Preparation: In a set playing area, set 25 cups facing upright (UP CUPS), and 25 cups facing down (DOWN CUPS). Divide the children into two teams, Team A, and Team B. Team A will be assigned UP CUPS, and Team B will be assigned DOWN CUPS. The goal of the game is to be the team with the most cups facing their direction when the time runs out. This means that Team A will want the most cups facing upward, and Team B will want the most cups facing down.

Set a timer for two to three minutes. On your GO signal, teams may begin flipping cups in their preferred direction. Knocking down cups is not allowed. When the time runs out, count the cups in each direction. The team with the most cups flipped in their direction wins.

Story connection: **Paying a debt goes on and on.**

