

FAMILY ACTIVITY TIME

BIBLE STORY

Unmerciful Servant | **Matthew 18:21-35**

BIG PICTURE Q & A

Q: Why did Jesus tell parables?

A: Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE

When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:34

CHRIST CONNECTION

Nothing we do is enough to pay the debt we owe God and take away God's punishment for our sin. Jesus came and died on the cross to pay for our sin and take the punishment we deserve. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin completely. We can forgive others because God has greatly forgiven us greatly.

PARENTS, lead your family through the following activity. As the kids do their activity, review the questions on the backside of this page to reinforce what we've learned. Look up the scriptures in your Bible. Also review with your kids the main points (listed above) of what was taught in our message today. Download the Memory Verse Hand Motions to memorize and learn the verse together.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: MERCIFUL/UNMERCIFUL MASKS

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper Plates, Craft sticks, Tape, Extra Craft supplies.

WHAT YOU DO:

- ❑ **Distribute** to each kid two paper plates and a craft stick.
- ❑ **Instruct** them to draw a happy face on one paper plate and an angry face on the other to represent merciful and unmerciful attitudes.
- ❑ **Help** the kids tape their craft sticks to one plate and then tape the two plates together to make a two-sided mask. Allow kids to use other craft supplies to decorate their masks.
- ❑ **Come** up with situations where people might choose to act mercifully or unmercifully, and ask the kids to use their masks to show how they might react and how God would want them to react.

WHAT YOU SAY: "In our lives we can choose to show mercy to others and forgive them. God showed us great mercy when He sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserve. We can show mercy to others because God first showed mercy to us. If we choose not to show mercy, our bad feelings will often grow inside of us. When we choose not to show mercy, we end up hurting ourselves as well as others."

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ❑ How many times did Peter think he should forgive someone? (seven times, Matt. 18:21)
- ❑ How many times did Jesus say to forgive someone? (seventy times seven times, Matt. 18:22)
- ❑ In the parable, how many silver coins did the servant owe the king? (fifty million, or 10,000 talents; Matt. 18:24)
- ❑ What did the servant ask the king to do? (give him more time, Matt. 18:26)
- ❑ What did the king do for the servant? (The king forgave him, Matt. 18:27)
- ❑ How many silver coins did the man owe the servant? (one hundred, or 100 denarii; Matt. 18:28)
- ❑ What did the man ask the servant to do? (give him more time, Matt. 18:29)
- ❑ What did the servant do to the man who owed him money? (put him into jail, Matt. 18:30)
- ❑ Why was the king angry? (The king forgave the servant what he could never repay, and the servant did not forgive the small amount; Matt. 18:32-33)
- ❑ Who paid the debt for our sin? (Jesus, Rom. 4:25)
- ❑ Why can we forgive others? (God has greatly forgiven us, Eph. 4:32)
- ❑ In what Gospel can we find this parable? (the Gospel of Matthew, Matt. 18:21-35)
- ❑ **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.)

WHAT YOU SAY: Jesus told this story to show what forgiveness is like in the Kingdom of God. We are the servant and Jesus is the King. He has forgiven us of the debt that we never could have repaid. For all have sinned and the wages of sin (debt) is death. But the free gift of God is life. We can forgive others because God first forgave us. It is through His power that we can show mercy. We extend mercy to others because we received mercy from God.

Read these passages as a family and then pray to close.
Romans 3:23 | Romans 6:23

Pray with Kids: Dear God, thank you for sending Your Son to die on the cross for our sins. You love us so much that you made a way for us to be with You again. We love You. In Jesus name, Amen.

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