

C4K/Little Saints- Sunday 19th July 2020

Week 17: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Based on CEP Pearls, Pigs and Parties & Ministry to Children

Key verse: “Forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ” Ephesians 4:32 (CEV)

Story:

Bible verse: Matthew 18:21-35 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18%3A21-35&version=CEV>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED3fzkS-bhA> (2:52min)

Game: print off the forgiveness game and play as a family

How Many Times?: Ask the children how many times they can do various tasks. “How many pushups can you do? How many times can you bounce a ball into a container in a row?” Have the children attempt these tasks. Ask if anyone can complete these tasks 490 times in a row without messing up. Let them try. It is nearly impossible to do something 490 times.

Discuss:

Note to parents: *Forgiveness might be a long process for us rather than a single moment in our lives. As we appreciate more and more how much we are loved and forgiven by God, we are more able to forgive others. The unforgiving man in the parable was shown amazing mercy by the king. In light of the mercy he received, his unforgiving actions towards someone who owed him a small amount was truly ridiculous. Jesus makes it very clear how serious God views it when we refuse to forgive others. The rabbinic teaching was that a man should forgive his neighbour three times. Peter thought he was being extremely generous by doubling this standard and adding one. Most children and adults has difficulty grasping the enormity of our debt to God. The cost of our forgiveness was enormous for God- the death of his Son.*

- Revise last week the parable of the lost son. What does forgiveness mean? (when we do wrong, God will forgive us)
- What is it like to be forgiven when you’ve done something wrong?
- What is it like when you have to forgive someone else?
- What do you think of the man in the parable? What do you think of the king?
- Why was the king so angry with the man? Why should he have shown mercy? Would you like to live in a place that was ruled by a king like that?

K-6: How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? How many times did Peter think was enough times? Would you forgive someone seven times?

K-6: What answer did Jesus give to Peter? Does Jesus want us to keep count until we have got up to 490 ‘forgivings’? Or could it mean something else? Why should we keep on forgiving?

Jesus says his followers know God has forgiven them and they will be ready to forgive others. Jesus is a great king to follow, he is just like the king in the story. He forgives his people for all the sins they’ve ever done- and will ever do. He does that because he loves his people. He died on the cross so they could be forgiven. Jesus helps his followers to have the same forgiving attitude to each other. Sometimes we get it wrong because we aren’t perfect yet, but we keep on trying and he keeps helping us. Jesus understands that sometimes it is hard for us to forgive. He loves us and helps us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are a wonderful king! Thank you for dying so we could be forgiven. Please help us to understand how much you love us and how much we need to be forgiven by you. Please help us also to forgive others. Amen

Play: Using a white candle, write ‘God forgives’ on a piece of paper, use diluted paint to reveal the message. Try making a secret message using lemon juice <https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/secret-lemon-juice-messages/>

Print and make: Try one of the puzzles, versions for younger and older children or a colouring in page and decorate and display.

Join us NEXT WEEK as we go back to face-to-face church at 10am and learn more about being part of God’s Kingdom!

Worksheets are emailed each week. If you’d like to be added to our mailing list please email office@waitaraanglican.com.au