

TO HELP US STUDY

1. How often did Peter think he ought to forgive? _____
2. How many times did Jesus say to forgive? _____
3. What does it mean to forgive someone? _____

4. What do we call the kind of story Jesus told Peter to illustrate his point? _____
5. What was the king going to do to the man who owed him so much money? _____

6. When the servant begged for mercy, what did the king do? _____

7. On the way home, whom did the forgiven servant meet? _____

8. When the friend could not pay him, what did the forgiven man do to him? _____

9. When the king heard about this, he called back the first servant and said, "You _____ servant." What did the king do to him? _____
10. Jesus ended his story: "This is how my heavenly _____ will treat each of you unless you _____ your brother from your _____."

TO HELP US REMEMBER: *Young ones*—Matthew 6:12, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Older ones—Matthew 18:21-22

TO CHALLENGE TEEN THOUGHT

Find at least five other scriptures that teach the same idea (that God will treat us as we treat others). List these on the back of this page.

TIPS FOR TEACHING PARENTS

Our young children will not benefit much from doctrinal theories about forgiveness. So we must try to get the idea of forgiveness out of theory form and into practice in their lives.

What I mean is this: instead of just telling a story and talking in vague terms about "forgiveness," we must apply Christ's teaching to everyday experiences in our kids' lives. If we think back over the past day or so, surely we can recall one or two minor spats or arguments between our kids and their playmates. As we tell the story, we can bring these up to let our children see that Christ is talking about their angry feelings toward their companions. If our little ones are really young, their anger is not too deep nor their hurt very long lasting. But the older our children, the harder the grudges they will form against those who cross them. Let's help our sons and daughters to see that long-lasting anger—grudges—do not hurt the person they resent. But they do hurt the angry grudge-bearer. Can you think of a more practical or beneficial lesson to teach a child?

FOR ADULT STUDY: Mt 6:14; Mk 11:25; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13; 2 Cor 2:10.