**A group of trees in a forest

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**Day 1**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can forgive others.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: How much should we forgive others?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Matthew 18:21–22

Peter asked Jesus to give him the limit on how many times he had to forgive someone. Peter thought seven times was a good number. But Jesus made the point that we should keep on forgiving when He said we should forgive seventy times more than Peter said. It doesn’t matter how many times someone needs forgiveness from us. When we are forgiven by God, He expects us to do the same and keep on forgiving others.

There should be no limit on our forgiveness because Jesus has no limit of forgiveness with us. He generously forgives our sins, and we should show that same generosity to others. When others sin against us, let’s follow these steps. We should think about how God has forgiven us, ask God for help, and then forgive. Forgiving others frees both us and them.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** How many times did Peter think we should forgive the sins of others?  **Answer 1.** Seven times (Matthew 18:21) |
| **Question 2.** What was Jesus’ point in saying to forgive seventy times seven?  **Answer 2.** We should keep on forgiving. |
| **Question 3.** Do you think that you should forgive someone without them saying sorry first? Explain.  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** What are steps we can take when others sin against us?  **Answer 4.** We should think about how God has forgiven us, ask God for help, and then forgive. |
| **Question 5.** How many times should we forgive others?  **Answer 5.** There is no set amount. We must keep on forgiving. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, I am so grateful that You have generously forgiven me for everything that I have done wrong. When others wrong me, help me to pause and remember all the times You have forgiven me. Let me to remember how much You love the person who sinned against me. I pray that I can always walk in the freedom of forgiveness. Amen.

**Day 2**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can forgive others.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: Why should we forgive others?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Matthew 18:23–35

In this story, a servant owed the king millions of dollars. The man begged for forgiveness for the debt he couldn’t pay back, and the king showed him mercy by forgiving his debt. The servant must have felt so relieved as he left the king. But then, he remembered that another servant owed him a much smaller amount of money. He should have forgiven that debt, but he didn’t, and he tried to make that servant pay him. The king heard about the terrible actions of the ungrateful servant and had him thrown in prison until he repaid his debt.

This parable shows us what happens when a person refuses to forgive others. Sadly, people hurt other people. You can probably think of a time when you were hurt by someone else, whether on purpose or by accident. It can be hard to forgive, and sometimes we may think we don’t have to. Jesus died on the Cross so our debt could be paid. Because of His gift of forgiveness to us, we should forgive others.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** How much money did the servant owe the king?  **Answer 1.** Millions of dollars (Matthew 18:24) |
| **Question 2.** How much did the other servant owe the man?  **Answer 2.** A few thousand dollars (Matthew 18:28) |
| **Question 3.** How would you feel if you were forgiven of such a huge debt?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** Why do you think the man didn’t forgive his fellow servant?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** Why should we forgive others?  **Answer 5.** Because of Jesus’ gift of forgiveness to us, we should forgive others. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for forgiving me for all my sins. I don’t deserve it or earn it, but still, You give this gift to me. You are such a good God. Help me to remember this so that I can freely and joyfully forgive others. Amen.

**Day 3**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can forgive others.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: How should we react when someone wrongs us?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Genesis 50:14–21

Joseph had experienced many wrongs against him. His jealous brothers sold him into slavery, he was wrongly accused, and he was thrown in prison. He could have been angry and bitter, even after God made him second-in-command over all of Egypt. Instead, Joseph generously provided for his brothers and their families, even after their father, Jacob, died. Joseph knew that God used those terrible times to save his family, so he could forgive the terrible things his brothers had done.

The way Joseph's brothers treated him was terrible, but Joseph was able to forgive them. How was he able to do that? Joseph continued to love God and others even when he was a slave, in prison, and in a place of power. He knew that God’s plan and purpose worked through his brothers—even when they sinned against him. Maybe our forgiveness to others when they hurt us will be the very thing that helps them see Jesus.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What did Joseph say to his brothers who were afraid of what he might do to them?  **Answer 1.** “Don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” (Genesis 50:21) |
| **Question 2.** How would you feel if you had to go through what Joseph went through?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** How can our forgiveness be a witness to others?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** How should we react when someone wrongs us?  **Answer 5.** We should forgive them. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for carrying us through every hard time. I pray that I can be like Joseph and offer forgiveness to others. Help me to see You working in every situation—good or bad. Thank You that we can offer forgiveness and mercy to others, just like You have done with us. I love You, Jesus. Amen.

**Day 4**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can forgive others.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: What does being one of God’s “holy people” look like?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Colossians 3:12–15

How should we live as people God has made holy? These verses from the Book of Colossians answer that question. Because God has made us holy, we need to live differently from those who don’t live for God. We also need to forgive others and be understanding and kind when they mess up. When Christians act this way, people want to know why they act like this and be part of it. What a great way to show Jesus’ love to the world!

We live in a world where it seems like people are constantly angry at each other. It’s easy to see the sin in other people. But, when we are one of God’s “holy people,” as it says in Colossians, we live differently from the world. Instead of getting mad at others, we are patient and gentle, and our words are kind. Christians should be humble, remembering that God’s mercy has saved us. Forgiveness is what sets us apart as believers and helps the world see the incredible love of Jesus.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What do the verses we read say we should “clothe” ourself with?  **Answer 1.** Tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love (Colossians 3:12, 14) |
| **Question 2.** How do you know someone is a follower of Jesus?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** Why do you think people like to point out each other’s faults?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** What does it mean to “make allowance for each other’s faults”?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** What does being one of God’s “holy people” look like?  **Answer 5.** It looks like living differently from those who don’t live for God. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, You have chosen us to live set apart for You. Help us to show Your love to others by living differently from the rest of the world. Help us to be forgiving and loving to others. The world needs to know You. Thank You for teaching us to live for You in kindness, mercy, and forgiveness. Amen.