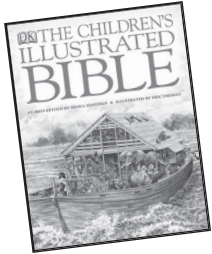


# Ordinary Time, Proper 19



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 242-243

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven. My heavenly Father will also forgive every one of you, if you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

—Matthew 18:21, 22, 35 adapted

## ☐ Jesus Says to Forgive

Show the parable of the forgiving servant from page 242-243 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Ask a child to read Matthew 18:21, 22, 35. Discuss:

1. Why did the king forgive the servant?
2. What did the servant do when his fellow servant came to him?
3. What did the king think of this? What did he do?
4. Who does the king represent in this parable? Who are the servants? Why is it important to forgive others like God forgives us?

Jesus told this parable to Peter when he asked how many times we should forgive others who have wronged us. God's forgiveness is called "grace," a wonderful blessing of love. We cannot talk about wrongdoing (sin) without also talking about grace, because God forgives us with grace. We can do the same for others.

Gather kids into groups of two or three. Each kid is to talk about someone who has done something wrong to them or others. They can imagine one if they can't remember a real event. Have kids brainstorm ideas of how to show forgiveness to that person. They may create skits of their ideas for the class.

5. Is there someone you need to forgive or that you need to ask forgiveness from? Do it today!

## ☐ Jump Rope

On a poster board, write the multiples of seven (14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49, 56, 63, 70). Play a jump-rope game. At each jump, the jumper counts up to 70 by sevens. Some may want to try to jump to higher numbers.

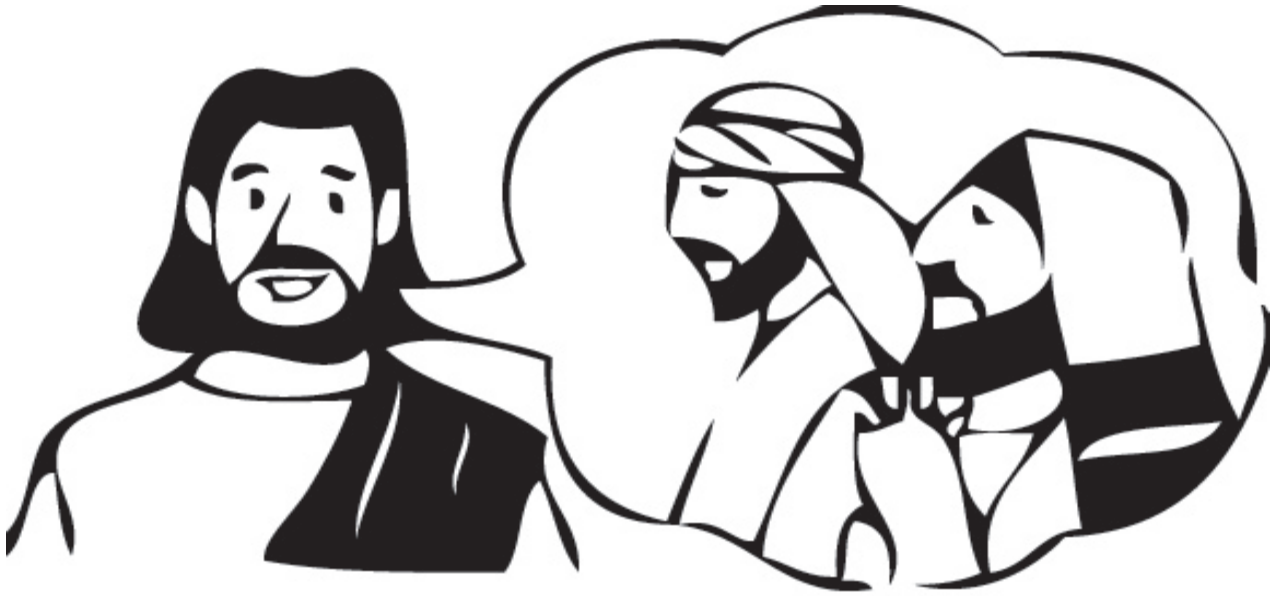
Teachable Moment: Theologian Bonnie Miller-McLemore says that we need to talk with kids about sin—usually defined as those actions which separate us from God, ourselves, and others—but only if we couple it with also talking about grace. Sin is a difficult concept, but children need a name for the wrongdoing which is sometimes beyond their understanding. Assure them that there is always forgiveness (grace) through God's love. To learn more, read *Let the Children Come: Reimagining Childhood from a Christian Perspective* (see Resources, page 111).

## ☐ Forgive 70 x 7

In this parable, Jesus said that because God forgives us, we should forgive others, not just seven times, but seventy times seven! In Greek, seventy and seven were perfect numbers that meant to forgive "without counting." Even if we multiplied seventy times seven, it would be a huge number. Use a calculator to show that seventy times seven is four hundred and ninety. Pour toothpicks onto a table, showing about 490 toothpicks. Give each child seven toothpicks and challenge them to spell out "7 x 70" using the seven toothpicks. See sample on KidsPage. They may break the toothpicks in half, but no smaller. When they figure the puzzle out, have them glue the toothpicks to a poster board or an index card. There may be more than one solution.

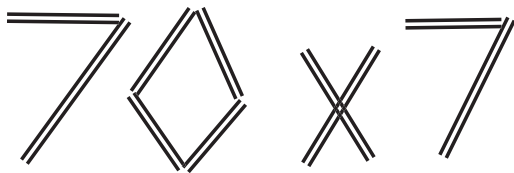
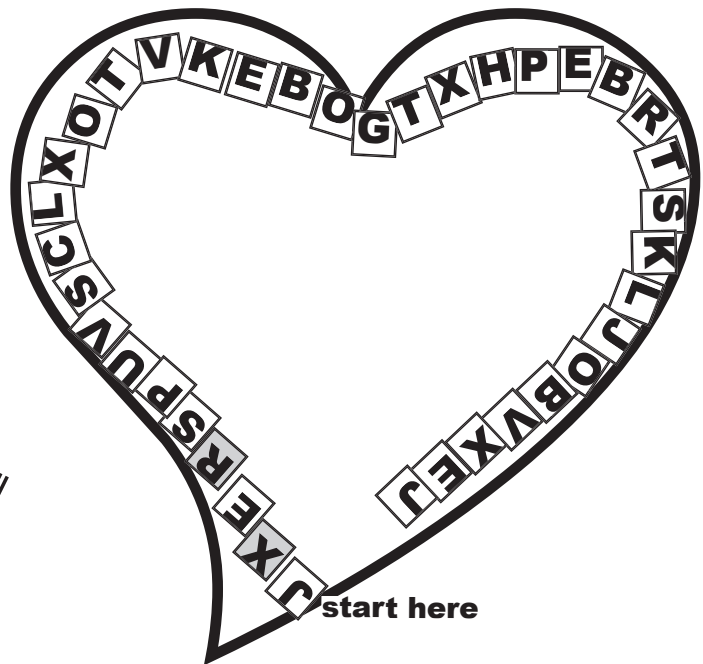


# KidsPage



Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven. My heavenly Father will also forgive every one of you, if you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."  
 —Matthew 18:21, 22, 35 adapted

Inside the heart, fill in every second letter. Write the letters that remain in the spaces of the message below. Read the message. How do we show the love of Jesus? Draw yourself and those you love in the center of the heart.



Use toothpicks to make this equation.

You show the love of **J** **E** \_\_\_\_\_ when  
 you " \_\_\_\_\_"  
 as you \_\_\_\_\_ yourself."