



WEEK 1

Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

Perfect Circle

With a piece of paper, pencil, and eraser, ask your child to make 3 circles as perfect as they can make it. They cannot ask help from you nor can they use any objects as a guide (e.g. coin, bottom of a glass, etc). Review the drawing and check if your child can still improve them by erasing / redrawing until they come up with circles that you are satisfied with. Ask your child how many times he had to use the eraser to try to make the perfect circles.

It was not easy drawing the perfect circle, right? You draw and erase, then draw and erase again until you get a good one. Even then, the circle is not perfect. This is just like us. We try to live perfect lives but we end up making mistakes. But just like the eraser, we can go to Jesus and ask for forgiveness and He will wash away our mistakes and help us start over.

Are you glad Jesus forgives us of our sins? Let's see what Jesus wants to teach us from this story.



Read the Word

Let's read from Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant

fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

The master was merciful to the servant and forgave him for the big amount of money he owed. But the servant could not forgive another servant who owed him only a small amount of money. Jesus wants to show us that we need to be merciful and forgiving to others because He is merciful to us and He forgives us our sins.

Being merciful means giving or doing something for someone else who does not deserve it. God is merciful to us. He did not wait for us to become good when He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. Romans 5:8 tells us that He died for us even when we were still sinners.

God is so merciful to us that he made sure we have one big "eraser". Jesus' love for us is never-ending and He will always forgive us when we are sorry for what we did. He is teaching us to show that same love and mercy to others.



Parent to Kid

2-6 years old

- Is there anything you have done that you want to say sorry for? Why don't you go to that person and say sorry now?

7-12 years old

- Is there someone who hurt or offended you recently that you need to show mercy to and forgive? Tell us about it.

Kid to Parent

- Have you ever forgiven someone who was not sorry for what they did? Or, have you forgiven someone who you felt did not deserve to be forgiven? If yes, how did you do it?
- What are some ways that we can show mercy to others?

God's love and mercy is so great and as we receive that same love and mercy from Him, He wants us to do the same for others. Is it difficult to do? Yes. Is it impossible to do? Not when you yourself have received God's love and mercy. Think about how much He loves you and think about all the sins you have done that He has forgiven you for.

We can be merciful to others because God's love in us is so much bigger than us.



Dear God,

Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus Christ to die for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank You for doing all of it even while we are still sinners. Remind us that even though we all make mistakes, Your perfect love covers us. Help us love others the same way by forgiving them when they hurt us. In Jesus' name,

Amen.



In reading our parable today, the unmerciful servant was choking his fellow servant because of 100 denarii. This is like someone owing you 4 months' worth of salary. He was not able to forgive his fellow servant for this amount. On the other hand, the unmerciful servant owed 10,000 talents. This is 200,000 years' worth of salary! That amount is impossible to pay back! Yet his master was willing to forgive the debt.

Can you imagine how much 200,000 years' worth of salary is? That is how big God's love is for us.

Source: <https://chimesnewspaper.com/13189/opinions/parable-two-debtors/>

**GOD'S LOVE
IS BIGGER!!!**

**200,000 YEARS'
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