

God Wants Me To Forgive Them?!?



What is the STORY about?

God Wants Me to Forgive Them?!? contains two fully-animated stories that teach children a biblical perspective on forgiveness.

“The Grapes of Wrath”

What do you get when a bunch of very cranky grapes make fun of Junior Asparagus? One sad asparagus and one big problem. Can Junior’s dad show the grapes the error of their ways? Will Junior ever be able to forgive them? Does anybody know what seventy times seven equals? Learn the answers to these questions and more as Larry the Cucumber tells the story of “The Grapes of Wrath!”

“Larry’s Lagoon”

A three-hour boat tour takes a turn for the worse when First Mate Larry absentmindedly crashes into an uncharted tropical island! Can Skipper Bob and the passengers possibly forgive Larry for making such a huge blunder? While the professor discovers how many contraptions can be built out of bamboo and coconuts, the others discover the real reasons God wants us to forgive.

- *A Lesson in Forgiveness*
- *Key Passage: Matthew 18:21-35 (Lesson-related Bible story)*
- *Running time: : “The Grapes of Wrath” (14 minutes)
“Larry’s Lagoon” (12 minutes)*
- *Bonus Show: “Forgive-O-Matic” (3 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

“Grapes of Wrath”

- *For what two reasons do the Grapes of Wrath make fun of Junior? (They think his hair is funny and his name is funny)*
- *Junior doesn’t want to forgive them a second time, but what did Qwerty say? (We need to forgive someone every time they say they’re sorry...the Bible says seventy times seven)*
- *“Larry’s Lagoon”*
- *Why did Larry leave after he apologized for wrecking the boat? (Bob said that “sorry” wasn’t good enough)*
- *When did Bob realize he needed to forgive Larry? (When the millionaire and his wife forgave him)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant is a lesson of FORGIVENESS found in Matthew 18:21-35. Read the biblical account to the children OR tell in this shortened version.

Jesus said that we must forgive our brother seventy times seven, and then He told this parable about forgiveness. There was a certain king who loaned money to his servants. On one particular day he wanted to settle his accounts, so he asked his servants to pay the money they owed him. One servant—who owed a large amount of money—pleaded with the king and asked for more time to pay back his debt. The king felt sorry for the man and canceled his debt completely. Soon after, this same man found one of his fellow servants who owed him a small amount of money. He began choking the man and demanding payment. The poor servant begged for more time to pay his debt, but his plea was ignored and he was thrown into prison until payment could be made. When the king heard the story, he again called the servant. “I erased all of your debt, you wicked servant,” he said, “and yet you cannot show the same mercy to a fellow servant.” The servant was sent to prison until he could pay his debt to the king. This is how we will be treated by our Heavenly Father if we do not forgive others as we have been forgiven.

The Story of the Unmerciful Servant



ACTIVITY

Write the key verses (Matthew 18:22 and Colossians 3:13b) on a board for all of the children to read. **MISSPELL** several of the words in the verses. Provide each child with paper and a pencil (with eraser). Direct them to copy the verses **EXACTLY** as you have them written. Talk about the mistakes that were made in the verses. As you make corrections on the board, allow the children to erase the mistakes and spell the words correctly on their papers. (Small children will need help with this activity. They will have fun erasing!) Talk about forgiveness and how Jesus forgives (erases) our sin when we make mistakes. We, too, should forgive (erase) the sins of others who hurt us...even if it happens over and over again.



What can we DO?

Engage the children in conversation about Christ's forgiveness for us and our forgiveness of others. Pose the following situations and questions to the children for discussion.

- **For the third time, your sister took your favorite CD without asking. Now she tells you it's lost and she's sorry. How should you react?**
- **One of your best friends says you can't be on his team at recess. You are the captain of the team tomorrow. What should you do?**
- **How many times do you think God has forgiven you? How many times should you forgive others?**

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **Matthew 6:12** "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
- **Matthew 6:14** "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
- **1 Peter 3:9a** "Do not repay evil with evil..."

3 Things to remember about the Unmerciful Servant

1. The king showed **MERCY** to his servant
2. The servant was **UNFORGIVING** of his fellow servant's debt
3. God commands us to forgive our brothers **SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN**

KEY VERSE

(Matthew 18:22) "Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"
(Colossians 3:13b) "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

KEY NUGGET

We should forgive others because God always forgives us.

