

# LEARNER SHEET: FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:23-34



## THE BIG IDEA

**God's forgiveness frees us  
to forgive others.**



## BIG FUN IDEA

Spend an evening bumper bowling. Bowling without the gutters is more "forgiving" for those who are not great bowlers. Have a contest to see who can wear the best bowling outfits.



## BIG SERVING IDEA

What happens when others are showered with graciousness? Bake cookies and deliver them to a nursing home. Stay in that place, playing games, painting residents' nails, and talking to them. Talk later about how it felt to give of yourself.

## PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

## DISCUSSION TIME

- **Abraham Lincoln once said: "Do I not destroy my enemy when I make him my friend?" What did he mean by this? Is it true?**
- **Why do you think it is difficult to ask for forgiveness?**
- **Tell about a time when you were forgiven by someone. What did it feel like?**
- **Tell about a time when you forgave someone.**
- **Are there ways of apologizing without words?**

# LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:23-34



Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

## PRAYER TIME

**Gracious Lord, you have forgiven our sins and shortcomings even though we do not deserve it. Make us instruments of your saving love in our family, our neighborhood, our school, and our places of work and play. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen**

## TALK TIME

Choose one question below per dinnertime during the next week and discuss. Keep a Bible handy to look up important verses!

- How could you include the world's conflicts in your prayers? Refer to the newspaper or news and consider the conflicts in terms of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Talk about relationships at school and work. How is everyone "getting along" in the world?
- Admit your failings to one another and apologize for them. Find light-hearted ways to name your limits. Play Twenty Questions to get others to guess your offense (their guesses should prove instructive!). Take your sins to God in prayer—don't just live them out on one another or expect family members to offer what only God can.



## KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

**MERCY**  
**RECONCILIATION**  
**SIN**



## WEB TIME

Gather around the family computer and use an Internet search engine to search for the key words from today's session. Write down the most interesting site you find that pops up for each term. Then do a search for "forgiveness." What do you find? Explore five sites that mention the term, and discuss the various opinions and perspectives you find. What are they trying to say? What kind of organizations do you think built the sites? Discuss.

## RITUAL TIME

Sometimes we just can't say the words when we need to offer or accept forgiveness. Help each other get started by designating a special forgiveness symbol that you create together. It could be a cross, a bookmark, or two hands sculpted out of clay that fit together. Whatever it is, it's there in your home, ready to be handed from one person to another to get the process of forgiveness rolling.