God is Mercy & Grace | Kid’s Material

**Memory Verse**: But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him. Dan 9:9

**Learning the Verse:**

1. Display the Bible verse and say together. Then ask the children to say the verse in each of these ways:
   - At a normal pace while standing
   - In fast forward while jogging in place
   - In a whisper while tiptoeing
   - Shouting while marching
   - In slow motion while jogging in slow motion
   - In a normal voice while walking backward

2. Make a 2’ square on the floor with masking tape. Connect the opposite corners inside the square with tape to form an “X.” Give each section a number value. Divide into two teams. Each child takes a turn throwing a bean bag into one of the sections. If he or she can say the verse correctly, his or her team’s score is the number of the section.

**Bible Lesson**

How would you have reacted if someone broke something that is precious to you, especially if you had asked them several times to be careful? (share a story of something precious to you, ask the kids to share a story)

Let’s read what Jesus says in Matthew 18:21-33.

Peter came to Him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!” Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold - along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned - to pay the debt. But the man fell down before his master and begged him, “Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.” Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. “Be patient with me, and I will pay it,” he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, “You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you!”
Teacher Reflection

What did Peter ask Jesus?
Do you ever want a finite number to know when you are finished forgiving?
Does 70 x 7 seem like a lot of times to forgive?
Actually, if you used two “sevens” together in the Bible, it meant infinity. It
wasn’t 490 times before you didn’t have to forgive -- you had to forgive forever.
Why do you think Jesus wanted us to just keep forgiving?
Why is forgiveness essential to healing?

With the Kids
Peter asked a very understandable question: How many times should I forgive
someone who sins against me? Peter probably thought he was being generous in suggesting seven times!

Jesus answers the question with the story we just read from the Bible that
reveals the heart of the matter. The man who owed the king millions of dollars
(by today’s standards) could never hope to pay back his debt.
What did the king do? (Gave him mercy by forgiving the debt.)

NOTE: Help children link the king’s actions to mercy.
If you were the man who was forgiven, how would you feel?
How did the man show his gratitude? (He didn’t. He went out and showed no
mercy to someone who owed him a little.)

How did the king respond to the man’s lack of mercy to someone who owed
him money? (Put him in jail and forced him to pay the debt that had been
forgiven.)

What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to learn from this story about mercy
and forgiveness? (God forgives us of ALL our sins, so we should forgive those
who sin against us.)

We can never outdo God’s mercy. He has given us more mercy than we will
ever be asked to give someone else. He will always forgive us.
When have you given mercy to someone when he or she really deserved anger
and punishment?

This does not mean that there are never consequences when someone has
sinned against us. Return back to Jealous and Just as attributes of God. What
did God do to show His mercy His justice His love and His jealousy. (Preach the
Gospel)
Craft
Provided Materials:
- Paper plate for each child
- Colorful Sharpie® markers
- Small plastic containers
- White glue, Bowl
- Sunflower seeds

Preparation
Before class, write 70 X 7 on the sides of the film canisters or eggs. (This represents the story in Matthew 18:21-35 about how many times should we forgive.) Then write, “Forgive as the Lord forgave you!” Colossians 3:13, on each paper plate. Put the birdseed into a bowl or container from which the children can scoop out the seed. For classes with children under 5 years old, or to save time, you can also glue 7 seeds to the lid of the film canisters or eggs. Complete one craft beforehand to use as an example during class time.

What you will do
Have each child glue 7 seeds to the lid of their small container. Do this first to give the glue time to dry. Have the children draw happy pictures on their plates, or fill them in with pretty colors. This is to show how it feels to be forgiven and to forgive someone else. Then they will fill their container with the birdseed and put on the lid.

When finished, show the kids how many seeds are in each container by dumping them out onto your own paper plate. Explain to the kids how this represents how many times they are to forgive one sin. Are you to forgive someone only 7 times like the number of seeds on the lid? No! They are to forgive 70 times 7. Help the children understand that this means an endless number of times. Encourage them to share this truth with their families. They are not to dump out their seeds until they get home and they can only dump them out onto their paper plates.