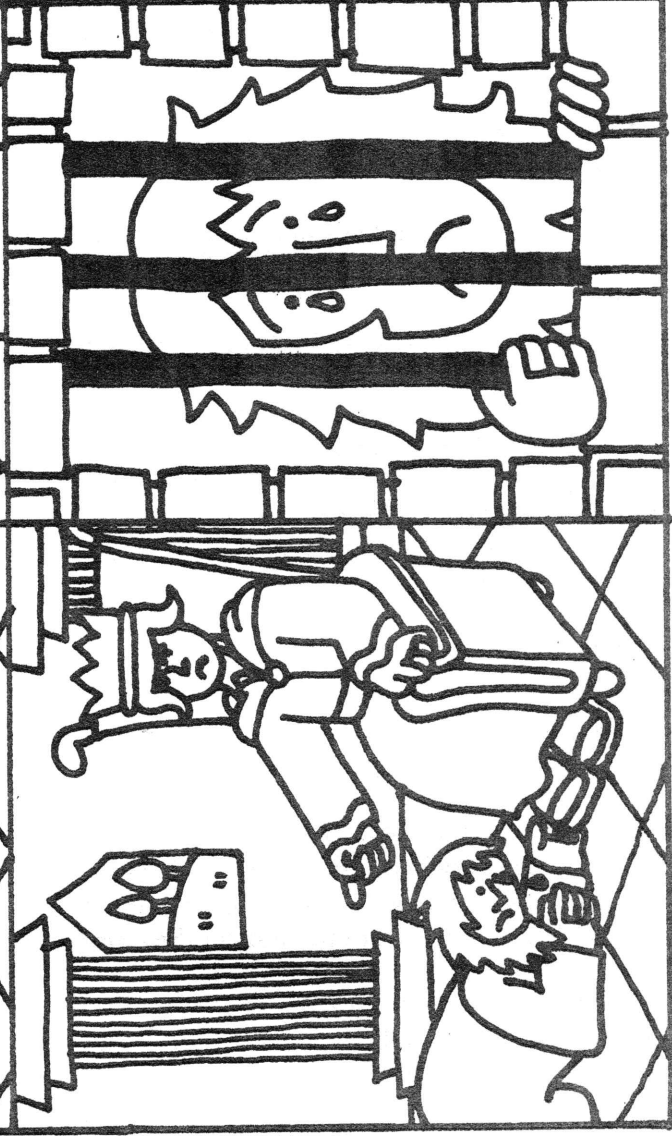
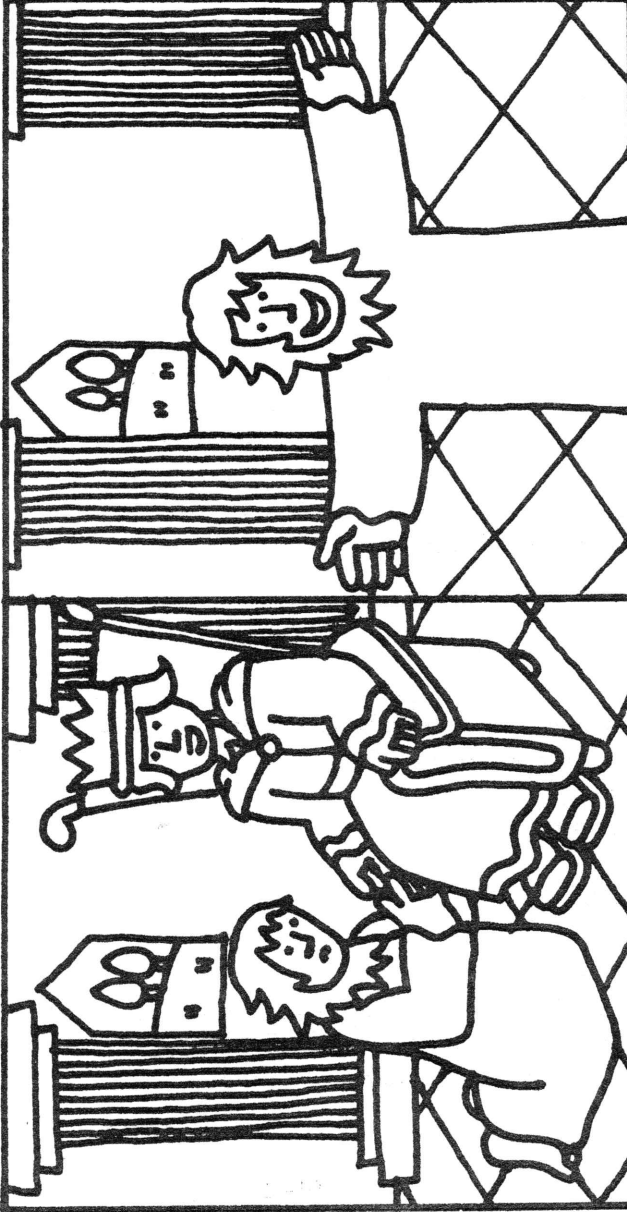
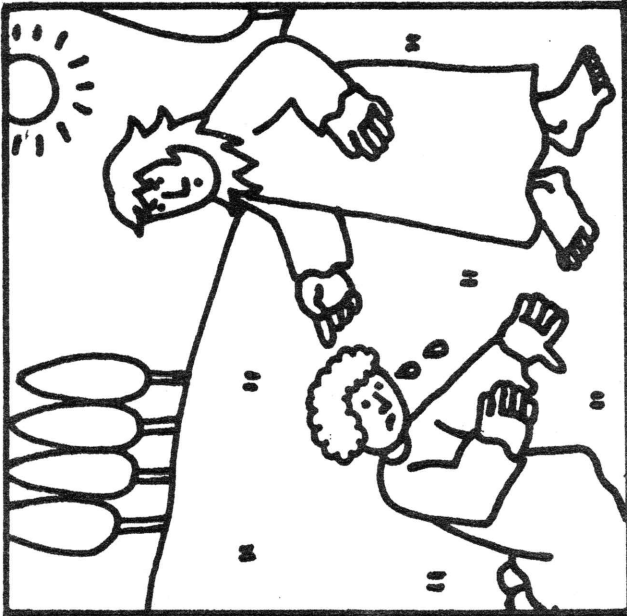


THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

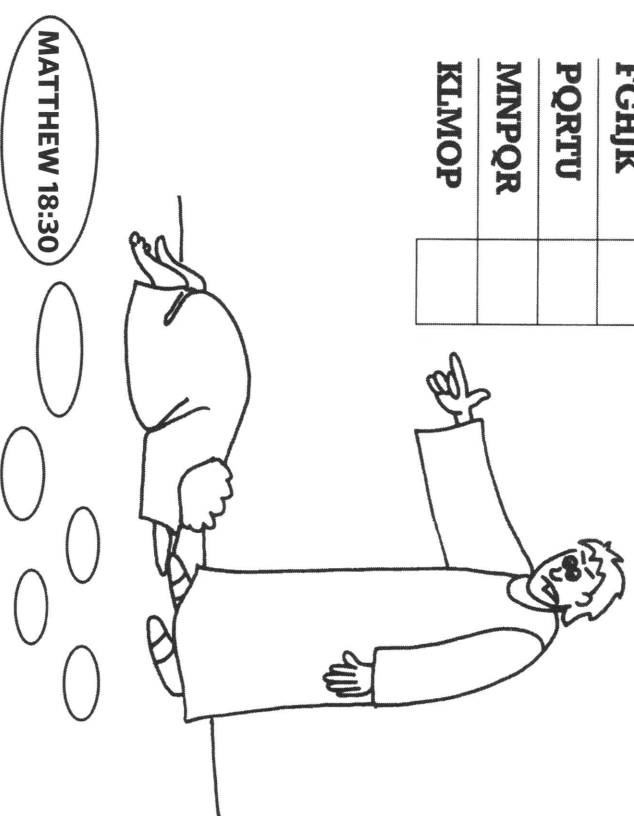


This servant, who had been forgiven so much, showed no mercy to another man who owed him only a small amount!

Jesus wants us to forgive each other just as we are forgiven ourselves.

Write the letter that is missing from the sequence in the box to spell out where the servant had the man sent

L M N O Q	
O P Q S T	
F G H J K	
P Q R T U	
M N P Q R	
K L M O P	



MATTHEW 18:30

Use the secret code pad to find Jesus' words below

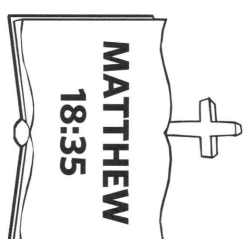
O = ∇	A = ⊥	E = △	R = >	F = ⊙	T = ∞	M = ⊔
U = □	H = ▯	B = ▴	Y = ◇	G = ⊏	I = ∩	V = ⊥

SECRET CODE PAD

⊙ ∇ > ⊏ ∩ ⊔ △
 ▴ > ∇ ∞ ▯ △ > ⊙ > ∇ ⊔

◇ ∇ □ >

▯ △ ⊔ > ∞

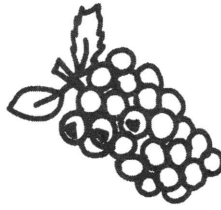


THINK and **LOOK** ahead

Be forgiving

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Find out how much the landowner paid
his workers in the vineyard.

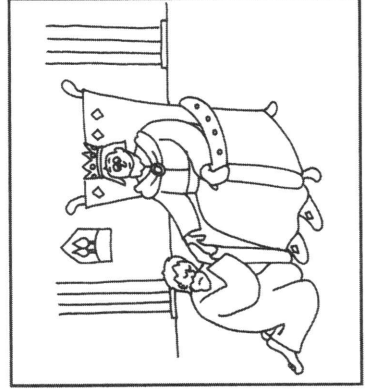
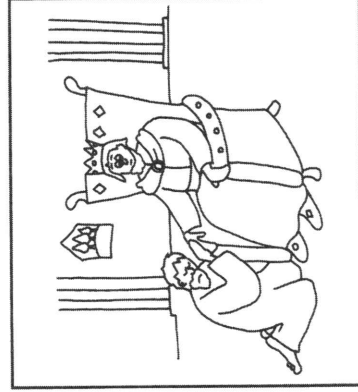


Check your answer by writing
down every second letter,
starting at the arrow

O _ _ _

Jesus told a parable about a king
who took pity on his servant and
canceled the servant's many debts.

These two pictures might look the same but can you find
six differences in the picture on the right?



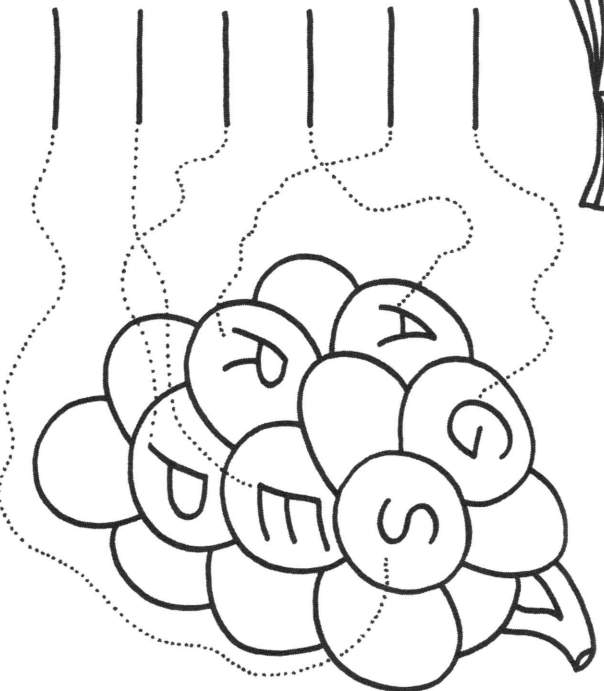
THINK and LOOK ahead

Next week Jesus tells a story about a man and his vineyard.

What grows in a vineyard?



Copy the letters on to the lines

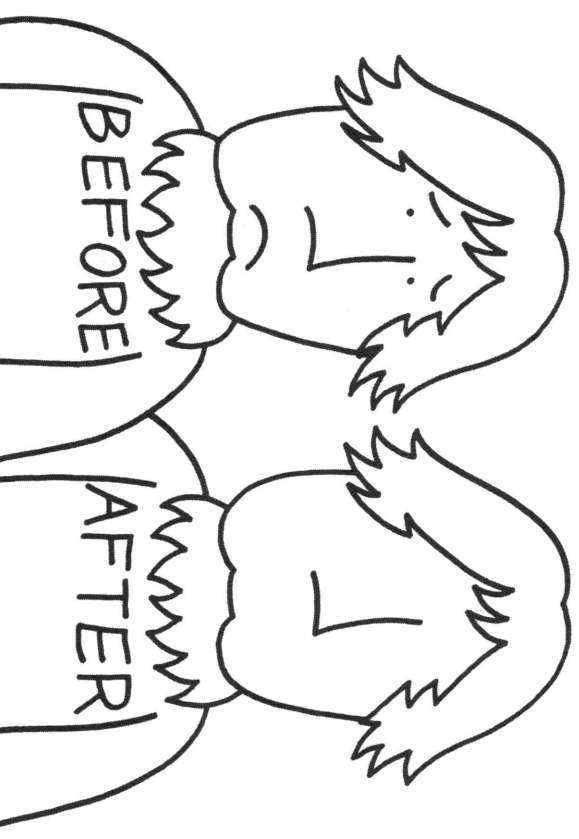


Be forgiving

MATTHEW 18:21-35

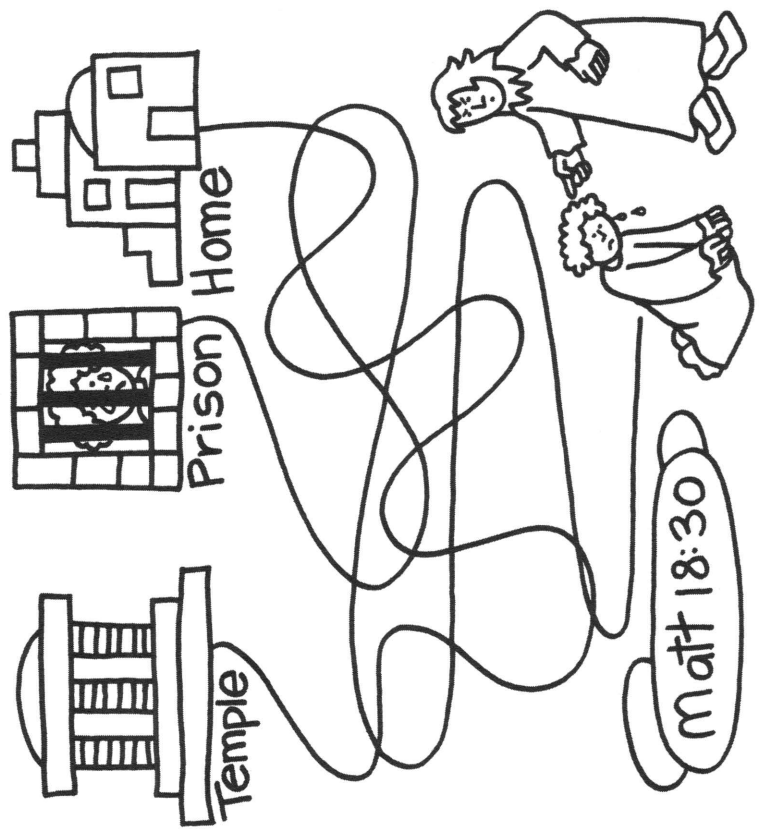
A servant owed the king a lot of money. He asked for mercy, and the king forgave him everything.

At first the servant was very worried!
How did he feel when he was forgiven? Draw his face



When another man,
 who owed the servant a small amount
 of money, asked for his mercy,
 what did the servant do?

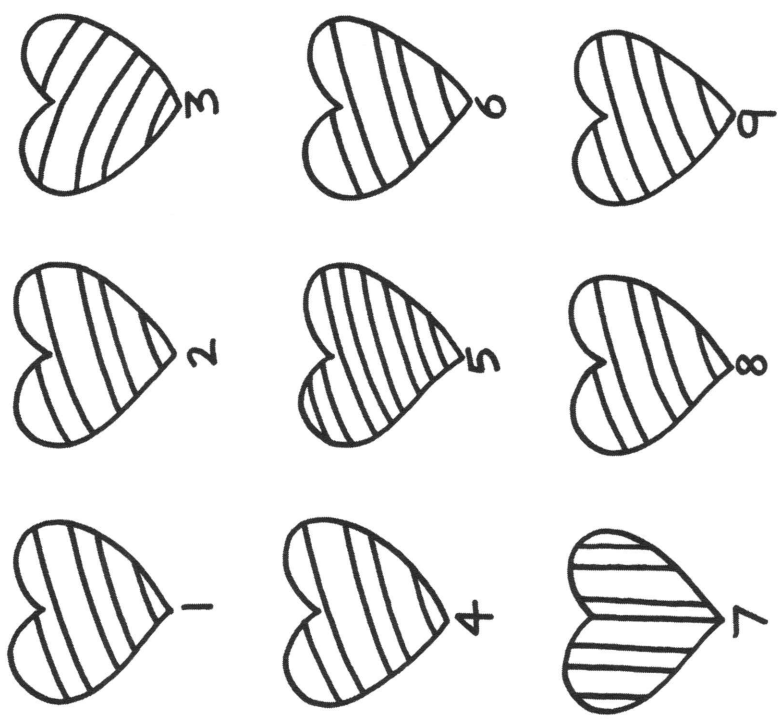
Follow the line to see where the servant sent the man



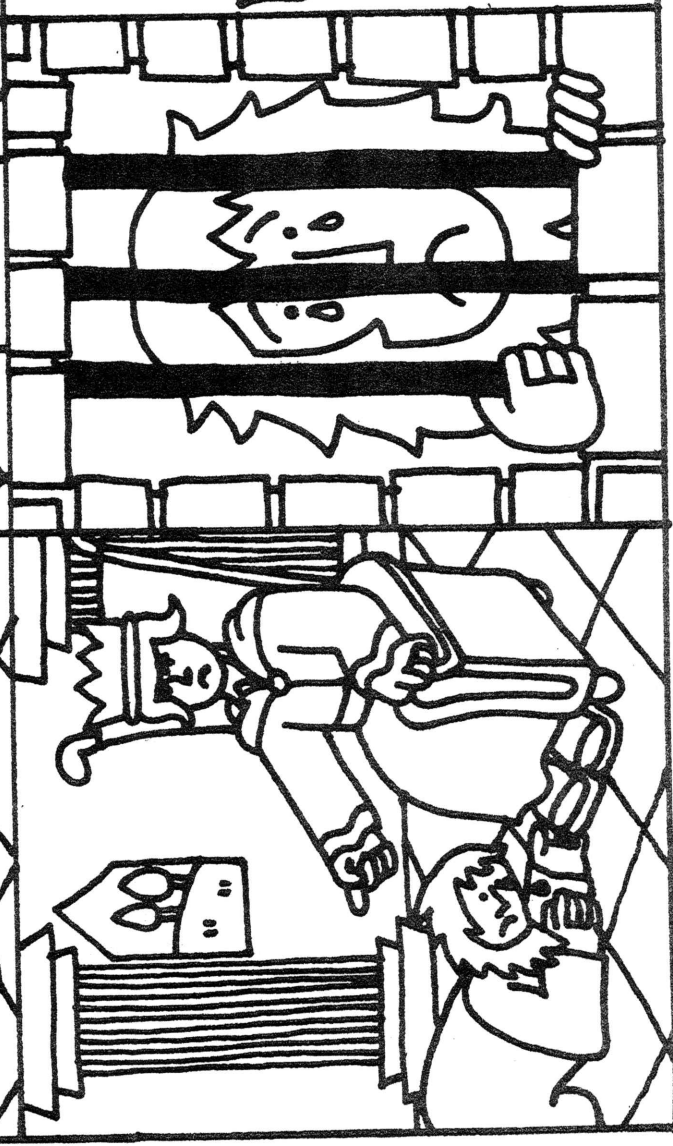
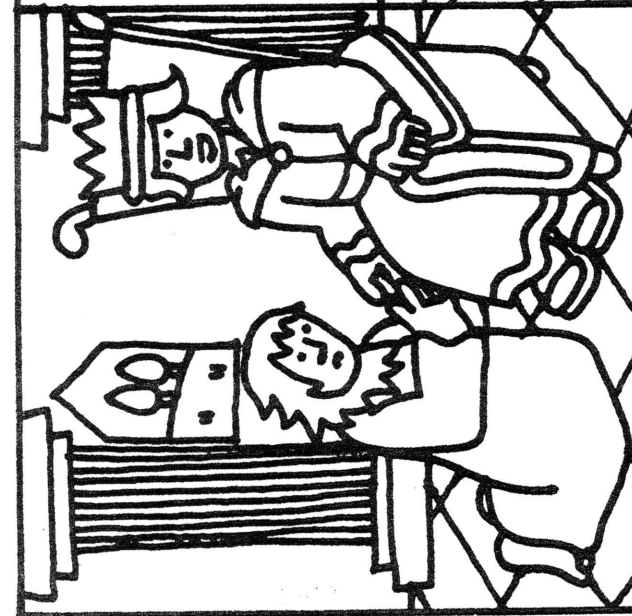
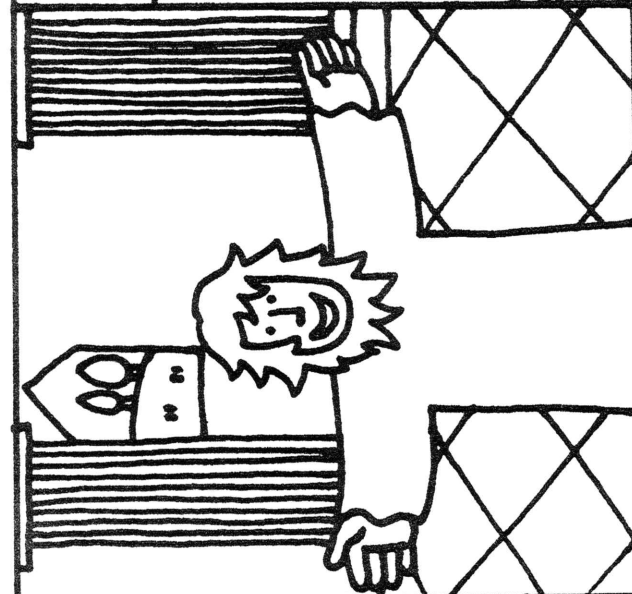
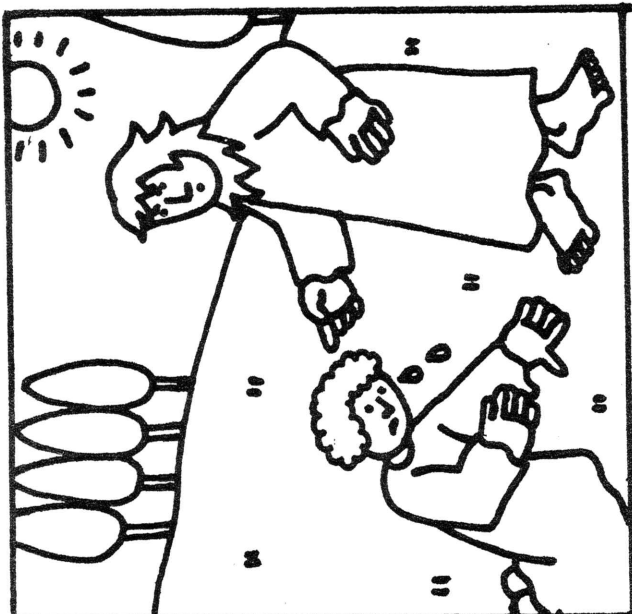
We must be ready
 to forgive each other
 from our hearts!

Six of the hearts are the same—
 which ones are different?
 Circle their numbers

Matt
 18:35



THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

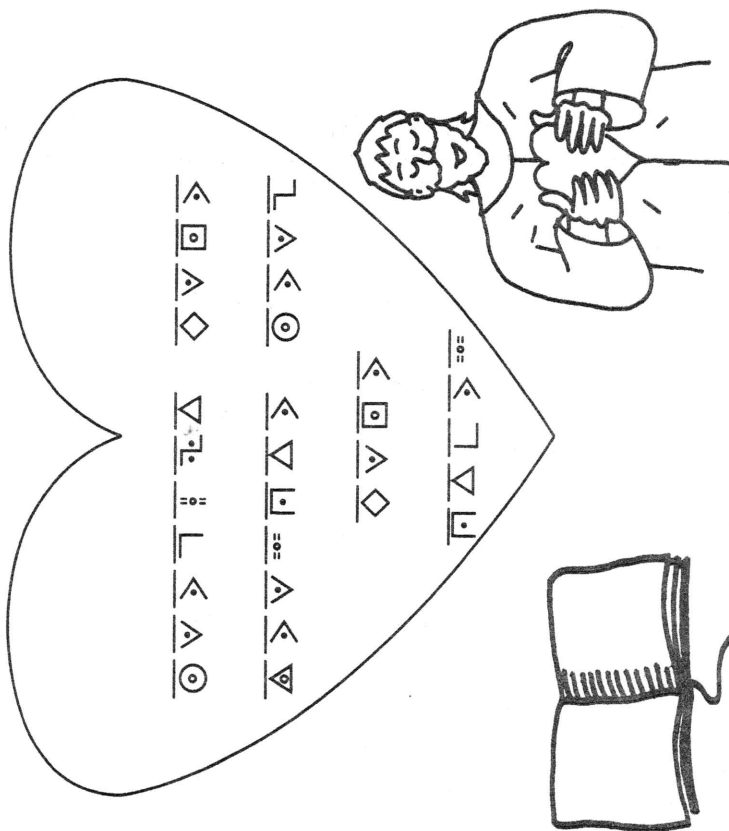


Jesus wants
us to forgive each other
just as we are forgiven
ourselves

Use the secret code pad to find Jesus' words below

SECRET CODE PAD

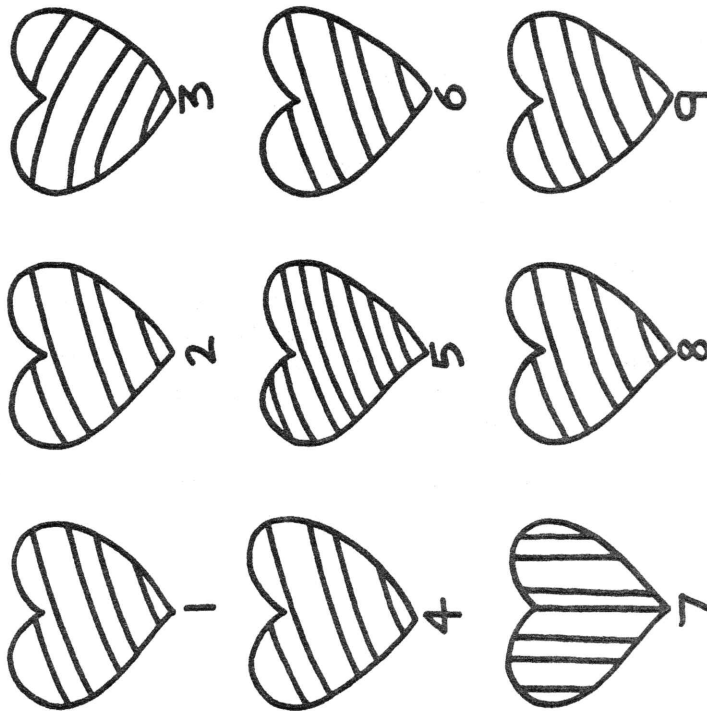
O = ▽	A = ▮	E = △	R = >	F = ⊙	T = ∞	M = ⊔
U = □	H = ◻	B = ▴	Y = ◇	G = ⊥	I = ∞	V = ⊥



We must be
ready to forgive each other
from our hearts!

Mat 18:35

Six of the hearts ♥ are the same -
which ones are different? Circle their numbers



Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year

Be forgiving

INTRODUCTION

Jesus taught us that if we wanted God to forgive us, then we must first learn to forgive each other. In today's Gospel, he tells a parable about a forgiving King and his unforgiving servant.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

SORRY

When we forgive someone, or they forgive us, we lose our feelings of anger and hurt; we no longer want to pay them back; we become friends again! Jesus showed us how to forgive others and how he would forgive us. (The children should join in the response to the prayer.)

If I have hurt anyone
by what I have said or done...

Jesus, I am sorry.

If I have ignored someone
or made them feel unloved...

Jesus, I am sorry.

If I have been unforgiving
and full of anger...

Jesus, I am sorry.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 18:23-35)

One day Jesus told this story: "There was once a king who had many servants. One servant owed the king a great deal of money, but he had nothing to pay him with. 'I will sell you and your family as slaves, and use the money to pay for your debts,' said the King.

"The servant fell to his knees and begged for another chance, 'Somehow I will repay everything I owe,' he pleaded. The King was a kind and generous man and, taking pity on the servant, cancelled his debts and let him go.

"Later that day, the servant met another man who owed him a small amount of money. When he could not pay what he owed, the servant had him thrown into jail.

"When the news reached the king, he sent for the unforgiving servant. 'Could you not forgive someone just as I forgave you?' he asked. Then he had the servant thrown into prison until he could pay back all that he owed the king."

Jesus said, "Just as my father forgives you, so you must be ready to forgive others with all your heart."

DISCUSSION

Why was the servant in trouble with the king? At first, what did the king do? What did he do instead? Even though the servant owed him a great deal of money, he completely forgave his debt and gave him the chance to make a fresh start.

Did the servant show the same forgiveness towards the man who owed him some money? He quickly forgot the good example shown by the king and what a difference the king's mercy had made to his life.

What happened to the unforgiving servant? The angry king had him thrown into jail until he could repay all that he owed.

What message does Jesus give us in this parable? That we must be ready to forgive others, however large or small their wrongdoing, if we want to be forgiven ourselves. God will always forgive us, but in the same way, he expects us to show mercy to others.

ACTIVITY

Make copies of the series of pictures telling today's parable. After coloring, pin them on a board for the children to look at and discuss.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus taught us a prayer that mentions how we must forgive others when we ask forgiveness ourselves. Listen closely as we say the words that speak of forgiveness:

Our Father...



Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year

Focus

A candle next to a Bible open at today's Gospel, together with a pile of money.

Introduction

When someone we love makes a mistake or does something wrong, the love that we have for them allows us to find forgiveness in our hearts. God's love for us is greater than we can begin to imagine. Such deep love means that our heavenly Father is always ready to forgive our mistakes and failings, however many times we let him down. Jesus reminds us today that, as his followers, we are expected to forgive others as readily and unconditionally as God forgives us.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 2.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (18:21-35)
(See page 376.)

Reflection

When Peter spoke to Jesus about forgiveness, how many times did he suggest a person might be forgiven?

Peter probably thought that he was being particularly generous and understanding when he suggested forgiving someone as many as seven times. Jewish law at the time was not forgiving, and encouraged people to demand 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth'. Indeed, since the earliest Old Testament times, Jewish law had approved of imposing punishments which were equal in severity to the crimes or damage caused by a wrong-doer (Exodus 21:25).

How do you think Peter felt when he heard Jesus' reply?

Jesus turned tradition upside down with his radical new Gospel of love and forgiveness. Peter was probably shocked to hear that Jesus expected him to forgive others' mistakes and wrongdoings not just a few times but time and time again. Jesus wanted his followers to understand exactly what he expected from them, and therefore told a parable with a very plain message.

Can you remember what happened in the story Jesus told?
(Ask the children to retell it in their own words.)

Why was the king so angry with the servant he had earlier forgiven?

True forgiveness cannot be counted or measured out. It is the loving response which we are expected to make when someone is sincerely and genuinely sorry for a mistake or offence they have committed. The king's servant was guilty of a great deal of dishonesty, but the king had responded to his cries for mercy by giving him an opportunity to make a fresh start. He was ready and willing to give his servant another chance without attaching any conditions to his forgiveness. So when the

king later learned that the servant he had forgiven so much was unwilling to forgive another servant for so little, he was both disappointed and angry.

What does this story teach us about forgiveness?

As followers of Christ, we are expected to forgive the mistakes of one another as readily as God forgives our own mistakes. We cannot expect to be forgiven ourselves unless we willingly forgive others. God is full of compassion and mercy and wants us to be the same. Like the king in the story, God expects us to treat each other as kindly as he treats us.

Activity

Give each child an activity sheet to complete.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We bring before God's forgiving love the Church and all her people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before God's forgiving love all who are divided by hatred and war.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before God's forgiving love people in prison and their families.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before God's forgiving love people who are trying to make a fresh start.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
you are full of mercy and compassion.
Help us to become people of forgiveness,
so that we may grow closer to you.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.