

The Unforgiving Servant



5+ lesson pack

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Introduction

Jesus taught the parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:21-35. This parable teaches that we must forgive others, since Jesus forgave us.

Key Points:

- We should forgive others.
- God forgives people's sins.
- We should forgive without counting.

Lesson Guide

Ask your child if they know what it means to forgive? Explain that to forgive someone is to wipe out the debt they owe or let go of the anger we feel towards them for doing something wrong.

Using a whiteboard or a chalkboard, ask your child to name some bad actions that would need forgiveness. Make lots of marks on the board representing each sin. For example, stealing, disobeying, backtalk, etc. Share how sin marks our lives and we need Jesus to make us clean.

Now, talk about a time that someone wronged your child. Perhaps a sibling took a toy, or a friend was unkind. Using a different colour make a small line to represent the sin that someone committed against them. Ask who owes the greater debt.

Wipe the board clean of the lines representing their sin. Explain that this is what God does when we ask Him to forgive our sins. Jesus died so that our debt could be wiped clean.

Now, point to the little line representing the action someone did against them. Ask if it should be forgiven.

Share how forgiveness is not always easy, but since God forgives us, we should forgive others.

Ask your child if they remember who is Peter? Read Matthew 18:21. Ask your child if they think seven times is enough times to forgive someone. Do they think it should be more or less? Count out seven objects on the floor.

Read Matthew 18:22. Even though we think seven times is a lot, Jesus told Peter seventy times seven. He was saying there is no limit to how many times we should forgive because of the way God forgives us.

Begin to play a game of "Follow the Leader." Appoint your child as the leader, and if they are unfamiliar with the game, tell them that you are supposed to copy whatever they do. As they begin, don't do anything they do. Make it obvious that you are not copying them. Explain that although you are saying you want them to be the leader, you are showing that you don't really want them to be. Talk about how we can't say we want to obey Jesus, but then disobey when He tells us to forgive. Now, ask them to demonstrate how to follow the leader well.

As your child follows and copies everything you do, repeat phrases like, "Jesus is loving" and have the child say, "I should be loving." "Jesus is forgiving", "I should be forgiving." Continue with various attributes of Christ, which we should emulate. Kind, good, etc. Point out that just like your child follows in your physical footsteps, we should follow in Jesus' spiritual footsteps.

Remind your child the Bible says, "Treat others the way you want to be treated". Remind them that we should forgive the way we want to be forgiven.

Say the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) together and reflect on verse 12. "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors".

Thank God that He has forgiven us. Ask Him to help us forgive others.

The Unforgiving Servant

One day, Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “No, not seven times, but seventy times seven!”

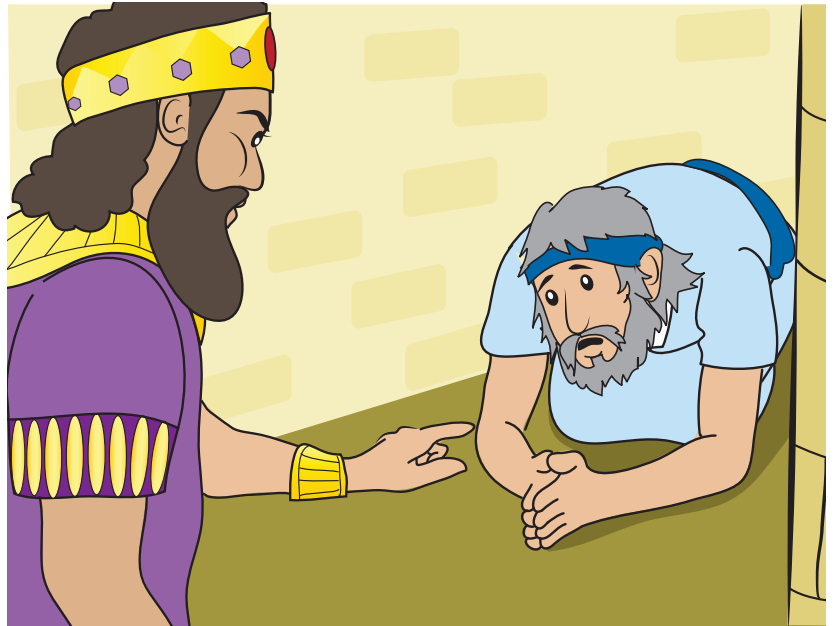
Jesus told Peter a parable to help him understand what Jesus was saying.

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

He noticed that one man owed him ten thousand talents. That was an extremely large sum of money equal to sixty million days’ pay.

The man didn’t have the money to pay the debt, so the king ordered that the man and his family be sold as slaves until he could pay the debt.

The servant, therefore, fell on his knees and begged for mercy. The king was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.



But then that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him one day’s pay, much less than he had owed the king. He took his fellow servants by the throat and demanded to be paid right away.



His fellow servant fell at his feet and begged him for mercy. He said, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you!'

But the man refused to wait, never mind forgive the debt. He had the man arrested and thrown into prison until he could pay him back.

When some of the other servants saw this, they couldn't believe what the man had done and were very upset. They went to tell the king.

Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, like I had mercy on you?'

Then the angry king sent the man to prison until he could pay his entire debt."

Jesus said, "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."



Fill in the missing Numbers

Peter asked Jesus, “How often should I forgive someone who sins against me? ___ times?”

Jesus said to him, “No, not ___ times, but ___ times ___ !”

70 times 7 = _____.

What Jesus was really saying is, there is no limit to the number of times you should forgive. We should forgive others the way God has forgiven us.

Multiply by seven quiz

$1 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$6 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$2 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$7 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$3 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$8 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$4 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$9 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$5 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

$10 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$

How many times?

How many times can you do the following in 30 seconds?



Stand up
and sit down

Jump up
and down



Say your
name

Catch a ball



Forgiveness

It can be really hard to forgive others or even yourself.

What are some words that remind you of forgiveness?



Why is it important to forgive others?

When are some times you need to ask for forgiveness?

Word search

R K I N G W S T Y C
K T T D G U X R T T
T Z E Z S R M E N N
G B S E V O N T E L
T T J E D T Q E V M
E V I G R O F P E E
L G N C L V F L S R
R I M Z T K A Y R C
K T A X T N M N N Y
G V L J V C G J T W

PETER
JESUS
KING
SERVANT
MERCY
DEBT
FORGIVE
JAIL
SEVENTY
KINGDOM



Games and Activities

Paper snowball fight

Roll up some old paper or magazines to make paper balls. Divide the room into two with equal paper balls on each side. Encourage the children to share them equally.

Split into teams. On go, each team must try to throw all the balls onto the other team's side. When the time is finished, shout, "stop." Ask the children to estimate which side has more balls. Next count the balls to see which team wins.



Dice game

With at least two people, take turns to roll a dice. After each person has rolled, the person with the highest number wins a point. The first person to collect five points wins.

Make note of which number is bigger.

Talk about how the first servant's debt was much bigger then the second.



Forgiveness tag

Select two players.

The first will be a debt collector and the other the forgiver.

All other players should run around the room.

The debt collector tags another player, they must freeze in jail.

If the forgiver tags the person in jail, they are free and also become a forgiver. Game continue until everyone has been forgiven.



Forgive each other



What you need:

Template pages,
Colouring pencils,
Scissors,
Glue,
Googly eyes (optional)

What to do:



Colour the template pages
and draw the face.

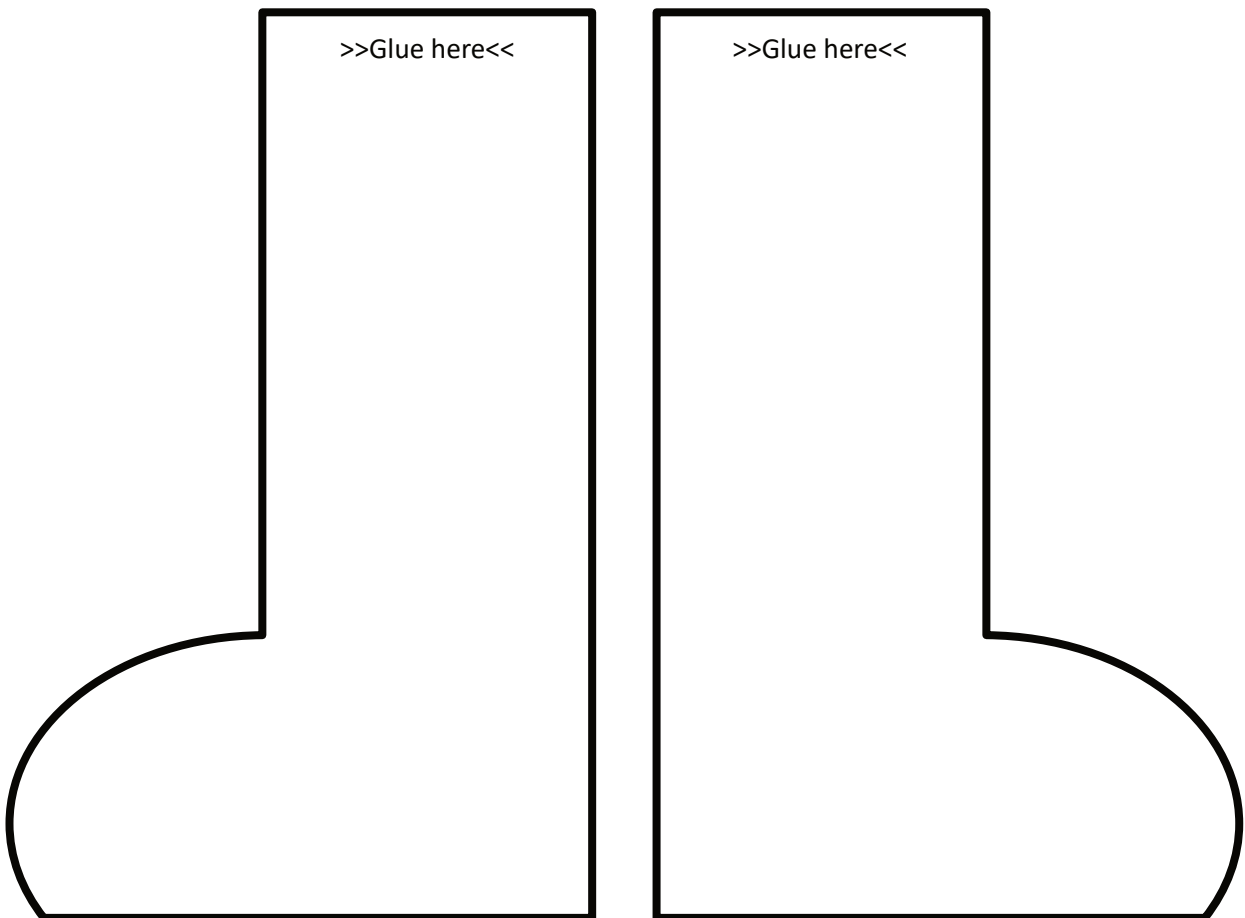


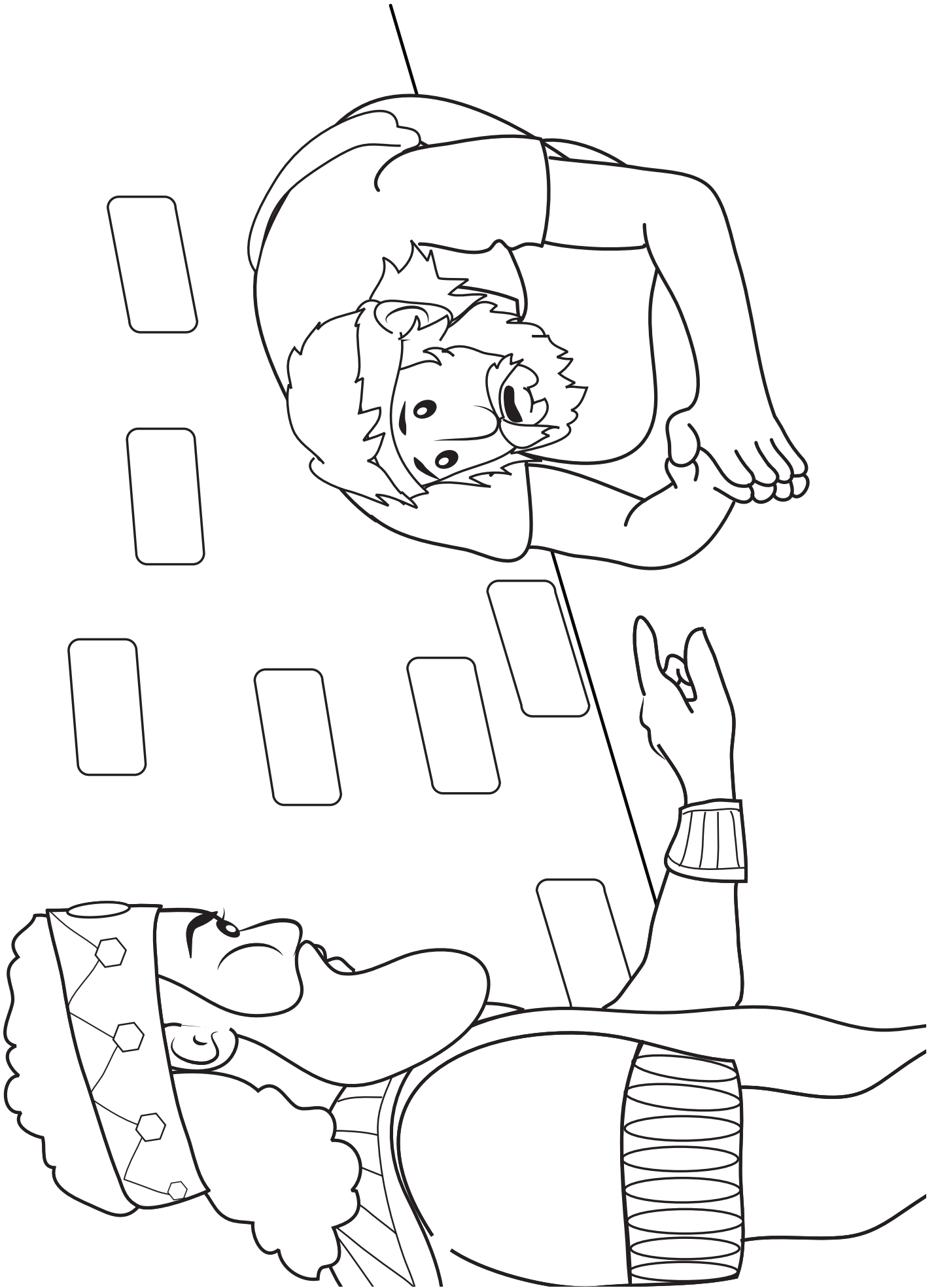
Draw around both your
child's hands onto paper.

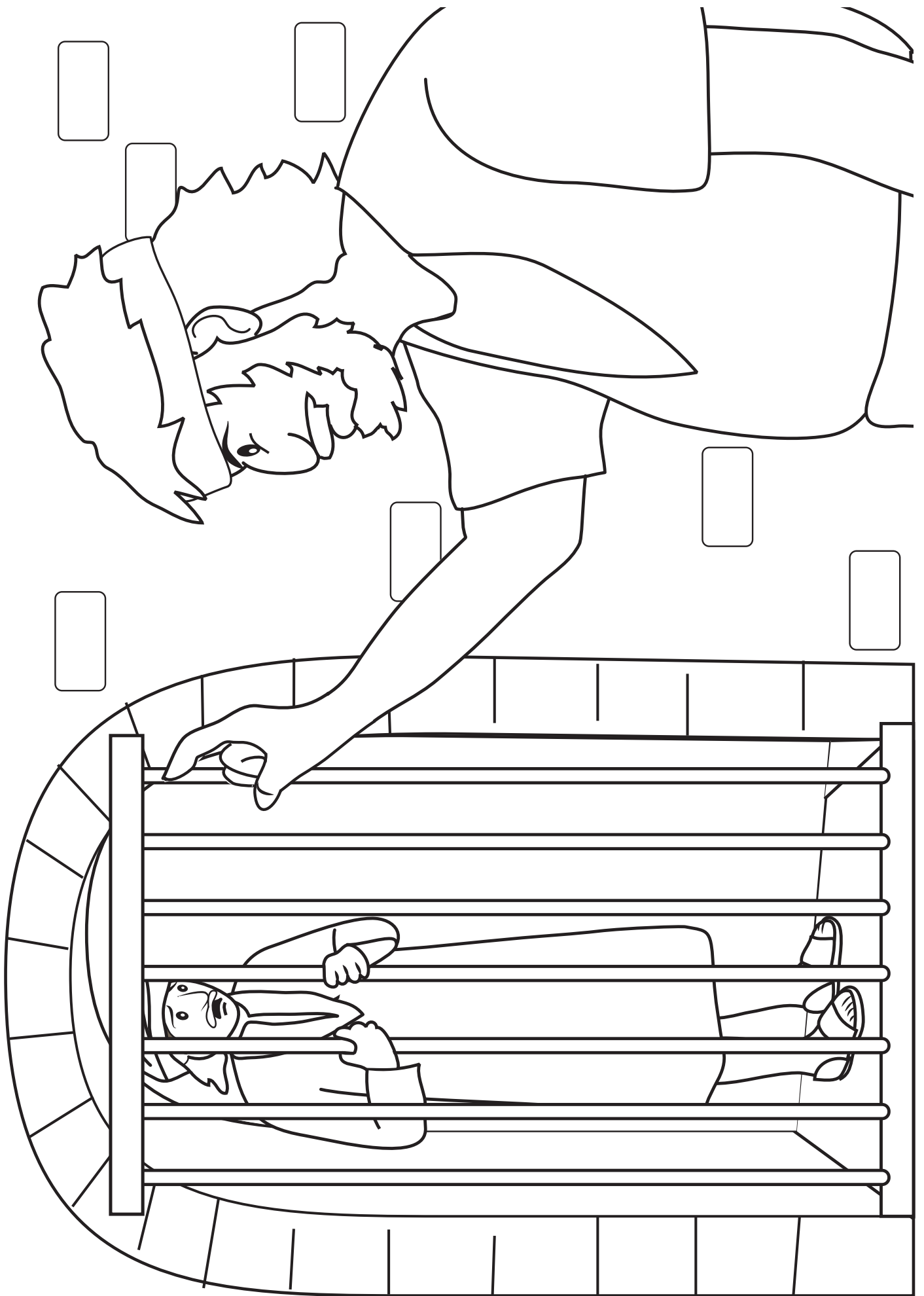


Cut out the objects. Glue
arms and legs behind the
heart. Glue on the hands.













Worship Time

Recommend worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

Forgive One Another

<https://youtu.be/Er3xtbTPXEg>

You Forgive Me

<https://youtu.be/wCKpNihiWCI>

The Forgiveness Song

<https://youtu.be/jkPhJyB7pJc>



Prayer

Thank God for forgiving your sins.

Ask Him to help you to say sorry when you do wrong and to forgive other people.

Next Week

The woman at the well

If you haven't already done so, sign up to receive future lesson by email.
truewaykids.com/subscribe/

