

Description: Your family will learn about endless forgiveness while doing this fun puzzle activity that emphasizes Jesus Christ's teachings to His apostles about forgiveness.


What you need: A copy of the "Forgiveness Puzzle " activity (artwork included with this lesson), one self-adhesive laminating sheet, scissors, glue, cardstock, X-acto knife and a sack or box.

Preparation:

1. Glue artwork to front and back of cardstock.
2. Laminate artwork.
3. Use X-acto knife to cut out puzzle pieces.
4. Place puzzle pieces in sack or box.

Activity: (Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

1. Explain: Peter was so hurt that he asked Jesus "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" (Matt. 18:21.)
2. Ask: Has anyone ever done something to you that made you feel so bad that you didn't want to forgive them? (Discuss.)
3. Put puzzle together by having family members take turns drawing a puzzle pieces out of the sack or box. Read and discuss the situation on the back. Emphasize that when we forgive others, it does not mean that we approve of the behavior or transgression.
4. Ask: How many times did Sarah forgive Andrew? (Seven.)
5. Ask: If this puzzle has seven pieces, how many times would we have to put it together to equal the number of times Jesus told Peter we need to forgive? (See Matt. 18:22).
6. Ask: How many times is 70×7 ?
7. Explain: Although 490 is a lot of times to forgive, Jesus was really teaching that we need to always forgive whether a person hurts us again or whether we just need to daily reaffirm our forgiveness for a single hurtful act.
8. Ask: Does forgiving others help us to feel better and why? (Discuss ideas.)

An illustration of Jesus and Peter. Jesus is on the right, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe with a red sash. Peter is on the left, with shorter brown hair and a beard, wearing a brown tunic. They are both looking at each other. The background is a dark grey-blue. The text is centered between them.

*"Then came Peter to him,
and said, Lord, how oft shall
my brother sin against me,
and I forgive him?
till seven times?*

*Jesus saith unto him,
I say not unto thee,
Until seven times: but,
Until seventy times seven."
(Matthew 18:21-22.)*

Sarah tripped when she was walking up to give a talk in Primary.

Andrew pointed and laughed.

Sarah's face turned red.

Sarah felt like tripping Andrew, but then she asked herself, What would Jesus do?

Sarah forgave Andrew.

Andrew pulled faces at Sarah during reading and it made her laugh.

Mrs. Jones made Sarah stay in for recess. Sarah was so mad she wanted to get Andrew in trouble, too, but then she asked herself,

What would Jesus do?
Sarah forgave Andrew.

Andrew took the ball from Sarah at recess. How many times must I forgive him?

Sarah remembered the FHE lesson Mother taught a few weeks ago. Jesus said, "70 x 7."

Sarah forgave Andrew.

Sarah smiled when Andrew ran past her. Andrew smiled, too, and gave the ball back to Sarah.

Andrew dropped a book off his desk. When Sarah picked it up for him he told her to keep her hands off his stuff.

Andrew pulled Sarah's hair. It hurt her head and feelings.

Sarah felt like throwing the book back on the ground, but then she asked herself, What would Jesus do?

She wanted to pull his hair, but then she asked herself, What would Jesus do?

Sarah forgave Andrew.

Sarah forgave Andrew.

When Sarah gave Andrew an invitation to her birthday party he said he wouldn't come to her party if she was the last person on earth.

Sarah decided that next year she wouldn't invite him, but then she asked herself, What would Jesus do?

Sarah forgave Andrew.

Andrew grabbed Sarah's picture and tore it in half.

Sarah felt like punching him in the nose, but then she asked herself, What would Jesus do?

Sarah forgave Andrew.