

The Right Way To Live Is To Forgive!

From Upsidedown Town Lesson 1

LEADERSHIP TRAIT - FORGIVENESS

Leaders who forgive, avoid destructive behaviors, like revenge.

LEADERSHIP LESSON

Your children will learn that we should always forgive others because God has forgiven us.

LEADERSHIP STORY

The parable of the unmerciful servant. (*Matthew 18:21-35*)

WHAT DO I DO?

Have your children read the Leadership Story. Next, have your children watch the Leadership Video and complete the Child Leadership Questions. If you want to do the Optional Family Activity, have the whole family watch the Leadership Video, then lead your family through the Optional Family Activity.

OPTIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITY: CARRY THE WEIGHT

Get a backpack and a lot of heavy books (*or any heavy objects, just make sure the objects are small enough so that eight or more can fit in the backpack*). Have one member of your family wear the backpack and the other members of your family hold the books. Have the person wearing the empty backpack walk around the house or around the room several times. Ask him or her if it was difficult to carry the backpack. While walking around the room, have the family member wearing the backpack tell about some times that someone hurt their feelings or made them mad. After each time have them say "I won't forgive them." When that is said, add one of the books to the backpack. Have the family member walk around again. Keep repeating until the backpack is completely full. Ask the family member if it was easier to walk with the empty backpack or the full backpack. Tell your family when we don't forgive, it is like adding a weight to the backpack. If we don't forgive our lives can be weighed down by bitterness and unforgiveness. Tell your family that the only person who really suffers is the one who doesn't forgive.

MEMORY VERSE:

Help your child memorize this verse.

"Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends."

Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)

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Main Point: The Right Way To Live Is To Forgive!

Materials Needed:

- A Bible
- The Leadership Video - *The Right Way To Live Is To Forgive!*
(File name: Elevate_FORGIVENESS_UDT_L1_TheRightWayToLiveIsToForgive.mp4)
- A pen or pencil

Read the Leadership Story about the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-35. When you are finished, watch the Leadership Video. Then, read the items below and write your responses in the space provided.

1. The world, in its upside down way, tells us if someone continuously does something wrong to us, what should we do?
2. How many times did Peter think you needed to forgive someone?
3. How many times did the religious leaders, called the Pharisees, say you had to forgive someone?
4. The teacher tells a story about a friend who comes over to your house. In this story, what did the friend do to the school project?
5. In the story that Jesus told, what did the king first decide to do to the servant who owed so much money he could never pay it back?

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6. What happened to the servant when he asked the king to give him another chance to pay back the debt he owed the king?
7. Later in the story, the servant came upon someone who owed him money. How much money did the man owe the servant?
8. What happened when the man who owed the servant money asked for more time to pay back the money he owed?
9. Was the king happy with the man when he found out how he treated the servant? Why?
10. What did the king do to the man when he found out what had happened?
11. The point of Jesus' story was to show that, as Christians, we have been forgiven of a huge debt. What debt have we been forgiven of?
12. Sins are all the things we have ever done wrong to God. If God was willing to forgive us of all of our sins, do you think we should be willing to forgive others when they do wrong to us?
13. To live God's way, the right side up way, we should remember that the best way to live is _____.

Like the servant, we have been forgiven a great debt - we have been forgiven of our sins. Since we have been forgiven, we should be willing to forgive others. Write down names of anyone who you need to forgive. Make a point to talk to those people this week and forgive them.

Memory Verse: Ask your parents to help you memorize this verse.

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1. Stop forgiving them.
2. 7 times.
3. Up to 3 times.
4. Tipped paint on it.
5. Sell everything he had. Sell his wife and children into slavery to pay back the debt.
6. He was set free and his debts were cancelled.
7. Not very much.
8. The man grabbed him by the throat and sent him to jail.
9. No. Because he had forgiven the man of his debt and so the man should have forgiven the servant of his debt.
10. Sent him to jail until he could pay back his debt.
11. Our sins.
12. Yes.
13. To forgive.