Preschool–Grade 5

The Unforgiving Servant Craft

Until seventy times seven · Matthew 18:21–35 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



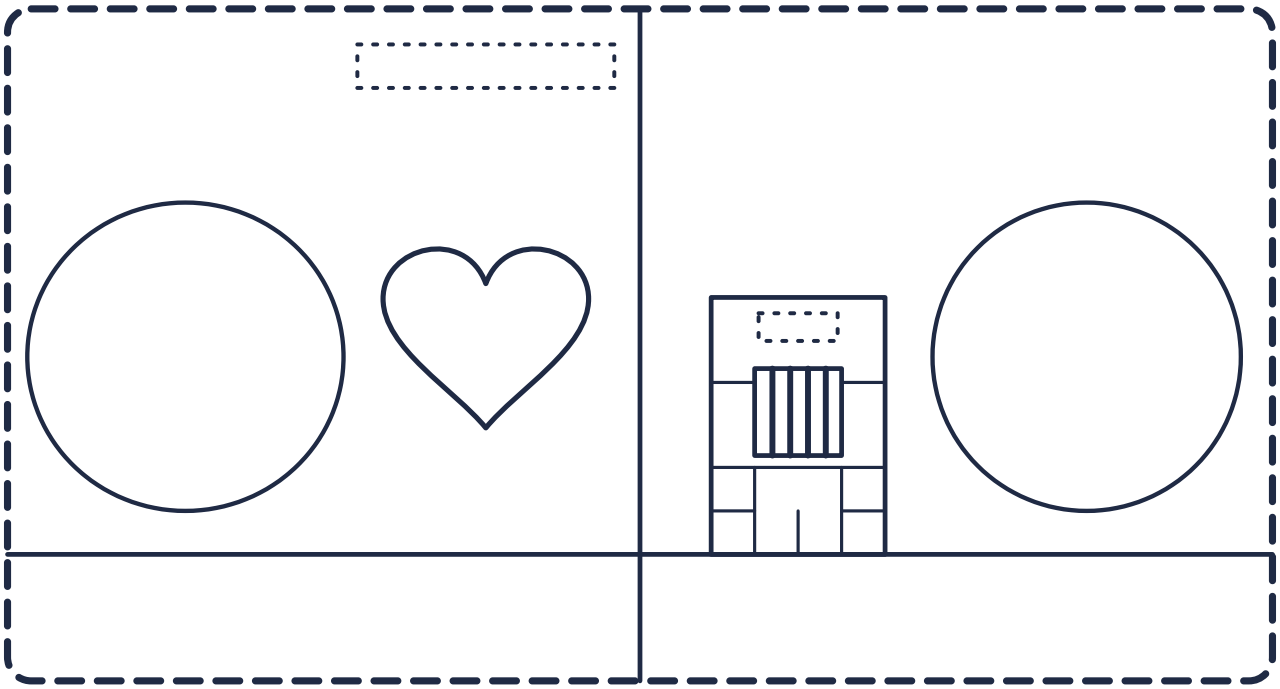
Harder

Both levels are a card in two halves. On the left, a light purple wall and a brown floor, with a window where the servant falls down before his lord (Matthew 18:26) and a big yellow flap for the huge debt. Lift it to find a red heart: his lord "was moved with compassion" and forgave him (18:27). On the right, a light blue sky, light brown ground and a gray prison, with a window where the fellowservant falls down (18:29) and a little yellow flap for the little debt. Lift it to find the prison bars (18:30). Medium (left): the card. Harder (right): the same with a strip of seven red hearts pulled out from behind it, for "till seven times?" (18:21).

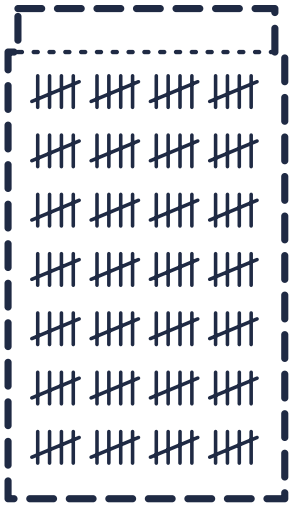
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: left wall light purple, floor brown, heart red; right sky light blue, ground light brown, prison gray. Leave the two drawing windows and the barred window white.



big flap: color it yellow, fold the tab back



small flap: color it yellow, fold the tab back

Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:22 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Draw the servant before his lord in the left window and the fellowservant in the right window. Cut out the card, the two flaps and the verse strip. Glue the big flap's tab on the dotted spot above the heart and the small flap's tab on the dotted spot above the barred window.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level



heart strip: leave it white; fold on every dotted line, back and forth



seven hearts: color them red and cut them out

How to add the seven hearts

1. Make the card from page 2 first.
2. Color the seven hearts red. Leave the heart strip white. Cut out the strip and the seven hearts on the dashed lines.
3. Glue one heart on each dotted square of the strip.
4. Fold the strip on every dotted line, back and forth like a fan.
5. Put glue on the front of the end tab. Press it on the back of the card at the right edge, halfway down, so the hearts stick out to the right. Fold the hearts up and tuck them behind the card.
6. Tell it: Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" (Matthew 18:21). Pull out the hearts and count all seven. Then read Jesus' answer on the back of the card: "Until seventy times seven" (18:22). Say: "Jesus did not want us to stop at seven and keep count. Keep on forgiving!"

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/unforgiving-servant-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light purple, brown, red, light blue, light brown, gray and yellow, crayons for drawing the people, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the two flaps and the verse strip ahead of time. Fold the flap tabs and glue the flaps on the card.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the flaps on the card. Kids color, draw the two servants, lift the flaps as you tell the story, and glue the verse strip on the back with help.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut, fold the tabs and glue the flaps. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level. Then add the folding strip of seven red hearts from page 3 behind the card, for Peter's question, "till seven times?" (Matthew 18:21). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the left, the wall light purple, the floor brown and the heart red. On the right, the sky light blue, the ground light brown and the prison gray. Leave the three windows white.
2. **Draw:** in the left window, draw the servant fallen down before his lord, the king (Matthew 18:26). In the right window, draw the fellowservant fallen down at the servant's feet (18:29).
3. **Color the flaps:** color the big flap and the small flap yellow.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the big flap, the small flap and the verse strip on the dashed lines. Don't cut out the windows.
5. **Fold:** fold the tab on each flap back on the dotted line.
6. **Glue the flaps:** put glue on the back of each tab. Press the tabs on the dotted spots above the heart and above the barred window, so each flap hangs down over them.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** the servant owed ten thousand talents, a huge debt (show the big flap, Matthew 18:24). He fell down and said, "Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all" (18:26). Lift the big flap: his lord was moved with compassion and forgave him the debt (18:27). Then the same servant found a fellowservant who owed him an hundred pence, a little debt (show the small flap, 18:28). He said the same words (18:29). Lift the small flap: the servant would not, but cast him into prison (18:30).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- What did Peter ask Jesus? *("How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Matthew 18:21)*
- What did Jesus answer? *("Until seventy times seven," 18:22)*
- Point to the big flap. How much did the servant owe the king? *(Ten thousand talents, more than he could ever pay, 18:24–25)*
- Lift the big flap. What did the lord do? *(He was moved with compassion, loosed him and forgave him the debt, 18:27)*
- Point to the small flap. How much did the fellowservant owe? *(An hundred pence, a little debt, 18:28)*
- Lift the small flap. What did the servant do to him? *(He would not have patience, but cast him into prison, 18:30)*
- What did the lord say the servant should have had? *(Compassion on his fellowservant, "even as I had pity on thee," 18:33)*
- Who is someone you can forgive this week?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: how oft** means how many times; **talents** means a very large amount of money; **pence** are small coins, and one penny was a day's pay for a worker (Matthew 20:2); **compassion** means caring about someone who is hurting and wanting to help; **loosed** means set free; **debt** means money someone owes; **fellowservant** means another servant of the same lord; **wroth** means very angry.
- **What the Bible says:** Jesus told this to show what "the kingdom of heaven" is like (Matthew 18:23). He did not say what the king's house or the prison looked like, and He did not describe a written bill. The wall, the prison, the tally marks for the debts, the heart and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** each child draws the two servants in the windows. The heart stands for the lord's compassion (18:27).
- **Keep it gentle:** the craft stops at the prison (18:30). Read Jesus' last words in the lesson plainly: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" (18:35).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the flaps on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child lift the big flap and find the heart.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free unforgiving servant lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/unforgiving-servant.

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