



## THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

*Unit Theme: Understanding Forgiveness*

*Today's Scripture:* Matthew 18:21-35

*Key Verse: "Then Peter came to him and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"*

*Questions to go deeper:*

- Jesus tells a parable in response to Peter's question about how often one is to forgive someone. This parable is called "The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant." Read it carefully and then decide which is the unforgiving servant in the story.
- Why do you suppose the unforgiving servant was so quick to forget how his own debts had been so quickly forgiven by the master? Why could he not show the mercy shown to him to another?
- This parable has a harsh ending, much more harsh than we like to associate with Jesus. What do you think is behind the harshness of the ending? *Hint:* The rules of society in Jesus' time were much different than ours are today.

*Activity possibilities:*

- Coloring picture about Lent on reverse side.
- Continue working on the "Lenten Fast" paper chain, using the instructions provided in the first week's lesson.
- Take out one piece of paper and fold it in half lengthwise. At the top of one half of the paper, write: "I need to be forgiven for" and on the other half write: "I need to forgive." Then, take some time to make two lists, one

under each heading. Keep going back to this task for several days, praying about it as you do. When you feel the two lists are complete, think about what you next action needs to be with regard to both lists. Do what you can to resolve both with the situations you have named.



Here is a great video that puts this story into contemporary terms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-Dl5dqLz5M>  
Enjoy!

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.