

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches
me about God's
kingdom.



The Servant Who Had No Mercy

Matthew 18:21-35

Memory Verse

Put God's kingdom first.
Matthew 6:33 NIV

I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.

So it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!

Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Matthew, and it begins with Jesus.

Show Kids Image 1

One day, Jesus was teaching His friends, the disciples, about how to treat other people. Peter asked Jesus, "How many times do I have to forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Do I have to forgive him seven (*hold up seven fingers*) times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times" (Matthew 18:22 NIrV).

Whoa! That's a really big number!

Show Kids Image 2

Then Jesus told Peter a story about a king who wanted to collect the money that some people owed him.

One man owed the king a lot (*spread arms wide*) of money, so the man fell on his knees and begged the king.

Clasp your hands in front of you, like you are begging.

He said, "Give me time. I'll pay it back!" Can you say that with me?

CHILDREN and LEADER: Give me time. I'll pay it back!

LEADER: The king felt sorry for the man, so he decided to be kind to him. The king forgave the man. He chose not to be angry with the man, and he told him he didn't have to pay back any of the money he owed him! Everyone, say, "Wow!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: Wow!

Show Kids Image 3

LEADER: But then the man went and found a person who owed him just a little bit (hold thumb and index finger close together) of money. The person begged the man, "Give me time. I'll pay it back!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: Give me time. I'll pay it back!

LEADER: But the man wasn't kind like the king. He was mean! He had the person put in jail, even though it was only a little bit (hold thumb and index finger close together) of money.

Show Kids Image 4

Some people told the king everything that happened, and the king became very upset. He told the man, "I forgave you because I was kind. You should have been kind to that person too." The king was so angry that he had the man put in jail. Everyone, say, "Oh, no!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: Oh, no!

LEADER: Jesus told Peter this story because he wanted Peter to know that God is kind and forgiving, like the king. And since God forgives us, then we should forgive other people too. Jesus taught Peter about God and His kingdom, and He teaches us about God's kingdom too.

We can forgive others when they break our favorite toy. We can forgive others when they won't share. When we forgive others, we are helping others see how good God is.

We can help God's kingdom grow because Jesus teaches you and me about God's kingdom. Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

CHILDREN and LEADER: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

LEADER: Yes, Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Pick up and close Bible.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You so much for being so good and loving, and thank You so much for giving us Jesus. I am so glad Jesus teaches us about Your kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.