



# Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



## A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

The king and the unforgiving servant.



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To encourage students to forgive those who hurt and offend them.



Lesson Takeaway:

As a follower of Jesus, we are expected to forgive those who hurt and offend us.



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Date:



Topic:

The king and the unforgiving servant



Bible References:

Matthew 18: 21 – 35.



Who were the king and the unforgiving servant?

The king and the unforgiving servants are characters in one of Jesus' parables. A parable is a short and simple story that Jesus usually told his listeners to teach them a lesson.

In Matthew 18:21, Peter asked Jesus, "how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?". Jesus answered, "not seven times, but 77 times". Then, he told a parable to explain his response.



What did the king and the unforgiving servant do?

The king had servants who owed him lots of money. He wanted to collect his money from these servants, so, he called them one after the other to ask them to pay up what they owed. One servant who came to him was owing ten thousand talents which was a lot of money!

But this servant could not pay back such huge money. So, the king gave an order to sell this man, his wife, children and everything he had, so he could pay his debt. The man fell on his knees and begged the king, "please give me time, I'll pay everything back". As he begged, the king had pity on him, he felt sorry for him. So, he forgave him everything he owed! He didn't have to pay back anything!



## What did the king and the unforgiving servant do? - Continued

But this servant went out and saw another servant that owed him 100 denarii (which was not a lot of money compared to what he was owing the king). He asked for his money, but the second servant couldn't pay; he begged him too, "please give me time and I will pay back". Do you know what happened?

The first servant refused to listen to the second servant. Instead, he put him in prison until he paid what he owed. When the other servants saw what happened, they reported to the king. The king was not happy at all! He said, "You wicked servant! I expected you to forgive the other servant just like I forgave you". He put the first servant in prison until he paid what he owed.



## What can we learn from the king and the unforgiving servant?

First, the king in the parable points us to God, the merciful and forgiving Father. Just like the king had compassion on the first servant, God is full of mercy and compassion to all His creatures, especially those who put their faith in Him.

Second, when we talk to God, He hears us. Just like the king who listened to the plea of the first servant, God listens to us when we talk to Him through prayers, songs, and even our thoughts. When we ask God to forgive us, that is exactly what He does – He forgives us! (see 1 John 1:9).

Third, just like the king expected the first servant to forgive the second servant, God expects us to show mercy and forgive those who offend or hurt us. Jesus has forgiven us of our sin, He wants us to forgive others too.

In Matthew 6:12, the bible says, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors".



## What can we learn from the king and the unforgiving servant? - Continued

Fourth, just as the king was disappointed that the first servant did not forgive the second servant, God is disappointed when we do not forgive one another. In Matthew 6: 14 – 15, the bible says, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”.

When we think about how much God loves us, and how much we hurt Him, yet He forgives us when we confess; we do not have any excuse not to forgive those who hurt us.



### Memorize:

Colossians 3:13 - Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.



### Scenario review:

Daniel is your friend. Last week Tuesday, during lunch break, you overheard Daniel saying unkind and nasty things about you to Brian, another student in your class. You were deeply hurt. You couldn't understand why Daniel would say unkind things about you. So, you started to avoid him. A few days later, he came to apologize. He said he was sorry and that he regretted saying nasty things about you.

What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



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Remember:

As a follower of Jesus, you are expected to forgive those who hurt and offend you.



Let us pray:

Dear God, thank You for forgiving me of my sin. I thank You for taking away my guilt and filling my heart with your peace, love and joy. Please, help me to forgive those who hurt and offend me, even when it looks difficult. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!



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We will like to hear from you.

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