

# The Parables of the Unforgiving Servant

CHARACTERS: Varies, between 6-8

PROPS: none specified, but can be used

COSTUMES: none specified, but can be used

SETTING: variable

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:21-35

The following set of five skits (one Biblical and four applications) are based on Matthew 18:21-35. They can be done in a series spaced out over time, rather than one after the other. After each skit, the audience can reflect on the lesson by answering questions such as: Which person in the skit was willing to forgive like God? Why did they change their mind about forgiving someone else? Which of the two debts was bigger? How much bigger? Who was not willing to forgive in this skit?

## The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

PETER: Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?

JESUS: Peter, I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

NARR 1: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

KING: Bring in the person who owes me ten thousand talents.

NARR 2: Which is around 1 million dollars

NARR 1: But could be more than a million, depending on whether the talents were made of gold or silver.

SERVANT 3: Here he is.

SERVANT 1: I cannot pay.

KING: Since you are not able to pay, I order that you, your wife and your children and all that you have be sold to repay the debt.

SERVANT 1: *(falling on his knees, begging)* Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything.

NARR 2: The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

NARR 1: But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii

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NARR 2: That would be about 18 to 20 dollars.

NARR 1: He grabbed him and began to choke him.

SERVANT 1: (*demanding*) Pay back what you owe me!

SERVANT 2: (*falling on his knees, begging*) Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.

SERVANT 1: No. I'm going to have you thrown into prison until you can pay the debt.

NARR: 2: When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master.

SERVANT 3: Master, the servant you just forgave that huge debt of 10,000 talents is putting a guy that owes him just 100 denarii into prison.

KING: Bring that servant I forgave back in here.

SERVANT 3: Yes, sir.

KING: You wicked servant. I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"

NARR 1: In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

NARR 2: Then Jesus said

JESUS: This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

PETER: Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?

JESUS: Peter, I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

## The Parable of the Crashed Cars

NARR 1: The kingdom of heaven is like a dad who found out his son who was in college had wrecked both his car and his own.

DAD: Son, you backed your car into mine.

SON: I was talking on my cell phone and not paying attention.

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DAD: They both are totaled. You are going to have to pay for both cars.

SON: I can't pay for them.

DAD: Since you are not able to pay, you'll have to sell your electronics, give up going to college and get whatever job you can, paying me all but 10% of your salary. And I'm kicking you out of the house.

SON: *(falling on his knees, begging)* I am so sorry. I didn't mean to be careless. Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything.

NARR 2: The dad took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

NARR 1: But when the son went out, he found his 6 year old sister listening to his CD.

NARR 2: She had cracked the case it was in.

NARR 1: He grabbed her and began to choke her.

SON: *(demanding)* You are a stupid sister. You cracked this case. You can't touch my stuff until you pay back what you owe me!

DAUGHTER: *(falling on his knees, begging)* Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.

SON: No. I'm going to take your dolls and books, all your toys and games until you can pay the debt. *(CHRISSEY starts crying)*.

KID 2: Chrissy, don't cry. We'll tell dad all about it.

NARR: 2: When the other kids saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their dad.

KID 1: Dad you just forgave your son that huge debt. Now he's yelling at little 6 year old Chrissy because she cracked his CD case.

KID 2: He says he's going to take all her toys and games away until she pays him back.

DAD: Tell him to come in here.

SON: You wanted to see me dad?

DAD: I can't believe how terribly you treated your sister. I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your sister just as I had on you?' Because you treated your own sister like this, you have to pay for both cars like I originally said.

KID 2: This is how our heavenly Father will treat each of us unless we forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.

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## The Parable of the Baseball Team

PETER: Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?

JESUS: Peter, I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

NARR 1: The kingdom of heaven is like a baseball league.

PLAYER 1: Coach, I didn't see our team on the schedule. What happened?

COACH: (*Hitting himself on the forehead for forgetting*) Oh no. I forgot to turn the paper work in.

PLAYER 2: Oooops. That reminds me. I forgot to turn my registration form in to you.

PLAYER 2: Coach, the deadline to sign up was weeks ago. We won't be able to play this year.

COACH: I'll go talk to the league commissioner. Maybe I can get him to let us in if I beg.

NARR 2: So the coach went to the commissioner's office.

COACH: I was wanting to sign my team up.

COMMISSIONER: The deadline was weeks ago. The schedules are set, umpireds hired. It is too late.

COACH: I'm begging you, please let us in. Please. My team will be so disappointed if they can't play.

COMMISSIONER: I hate to see people who want to play baseball, not be able to. I'm not sure why I'm agreeing to all this extra work when you should have turned your stuff in on time, but OK. Pay the fee and I'll let your team in.

COACH: We don't have the money. Is there any way you could let us in on a scholarship this time?

COMMISSIONER: You don't have the registration fee either? (*sighing*) Ok. We'll pay the fee for you.

COACH: Great. I'll tell the team. They'll be overjoyed.

PLAYER 2: Coach? What did the commissioner say?

COACH: He's going to let us in.

PLAYER 1: Great.

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PLAYER 2: Great news.

COACH: *(to PLAYER 2)* You aren't going to play. You forgot to turn in one of your forms.

PLAYER 2: I can bring it right over.

COACH: Nope, its late and you're out.

NARR 1: When the rest of the team saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told the commissioner.

NARR 2: The Commissioner called the coach back in.

COMMISSIONER: You are a disgrace to the sport of baseball. I forgave your lateness and waived the entry fee and you wouldn't even give a player 15 minutes to run home and get his paper? You can no longer coach of this team and I ban you from this league or any other in this city. *(like an umpire)* You're out.

NARR 1: This is how our heavenly Father will treat each of us unless we forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.

## The Parable of the Wedding Dress

PETER: Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?

JESUS: Peter, I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

NARR 1: The kingdom of heaven is like a wedding dress a girl borrowed from her mom.

GIRL: Mom, I'm playing a bride in a play at school and want to wear your dress.

MOM: Please be vey careful. The dress has sentimental value and it cost almost as much as our car did.

NARR 2: It was beautiful, fancy and expensive with hundreds of pearls sewn on it.

NARR 1: It had yards of silk and satin and handmade lace.

NARR 2: And the veil had yards and yards of material with diamonds sewn all over it.

GIRL: This is the most beautiful dress I have ever seen!

NARR 1: The girl wore the dress in her play and everyone said how beautiful she looked.

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NARR 2: After the play she forgot the dress and left it laying around back stage.

MOM: Where is my wedding dress that I let you borrow?

GIRL: Oh no! I forgot it.

NARR 1: She hurried back to the stage but it had been stolen.

GIRL: I'm sorry mom. I should have been more careful. I'll get you another one.

MOM: My wedding dress is irreplaceable. It was not only very expensive but it was special and precious to me.

GIRL: All I have right now is thirty cents. But if you'll be patient with me, I'll pay you back.

NARR 2: Her mom took pity on her, canceled the debt and offered to drive her and her friends to the beach.

NARR 1: The girl's friends arrived to go to the beach with her.

NARR 2: One was another girl who was in the play with her.

GIRL: Hey, you. You borrowed a piece of paper from me and haven't paid me back.

BORROWER: I'll pay you back tomorrow. I'm sorry. Please be patient with me.

GIRL: No way. You aren't coming to the beach with us.

NARR 1: He mom heard her say that.

MOM: I just forgave you that huge debt. Now you're making a big deal over a piece of paper. You will have to pay for the dress and until you do, you're grounded.

NARR 2: The mom took the others to the beach and the girl had to work for years to pay for the dress.

BORROWER: This is how our heavenly Father will treat each of us unless we forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.

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