

Junior Teacher Guide – July 2018



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Forgive and Forget

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Watch “Signs of Forgiveness.”

Show the YouTube video, “Signs of Forgiveness” (<https://youtu.be/FxoMbPWuk0>).

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

*Forgive your brother or sister from your heart.
(Matthew 18:35)*

Tell students to find the words in the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about Forgiving Like God aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about Forgiving Like God

Zion – The YACM theme song is “*Pass It On.*” Our lesson today is about forgiveness.

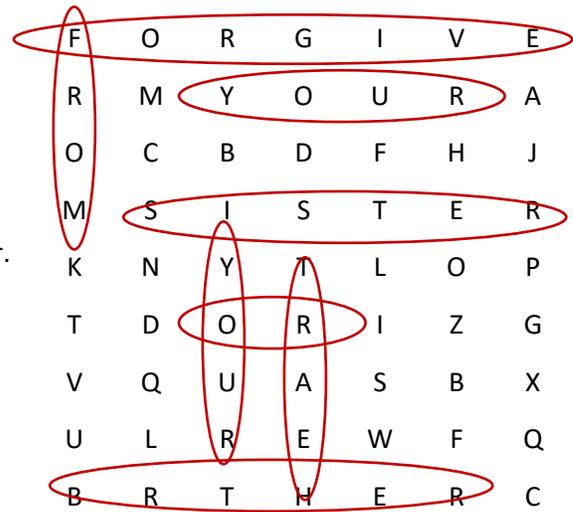
Zaya – Just as God forgives us, we must forgive others, “*pass it on.*”

Zion – Yes, because we receive forgiveness from God, we must make it possible for others to experience it.

Forgiveness cannot be mandated by law. It must come from the heart. To get this point across, Jesus told the parable of the unforgiving servant.

Just before Jesus told the parable, Peter had asked Jesus a question about forgiving others. Jesus had just taught about a forgiving spirit, and Peter wanted to know how often one should forgive – “*seven times?*” Peter evidently chose the number seven because it was twice as many as Jewish law required. But Jesus’ answer was astonishing – “*seventy-seven times,*” indicating an infinite number of times.

In the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus highlights the main ingredient of forgiveness – compassion. When the king called for the payment of the millions of dollars his servant owed, the servant pleaded with the king for mercy because he had no resources. Compassion overwhelmed the king, and he forgave his servant of his debt. But the same servant left the king’s presence and



encountered a man who owed *him* a few dollars. The servant demanded his money, and when the man could not pay, he had the man thrown into prison. Upon seeing what the servant had done, someone reported it to the king. The king, then, demanded that the servant repay him immediately. When the servant could not pay, the king had him thrown into prison.

How compassionate the servant would have been if he had followed the king's example! The servant had the opportunity to teach others about forgiveness, but his selfishness, lack of compassion and harshness caused his own downfall. The king had forgiven him, but he failed the test of forgiveness!

Like the servant, we often fail the test of forgiveness. God is constantly forgiving us. In fact, "*His mercy endures forever*" (Psalm 136:1). But we, like the servant, fail to follow God's example as we deal with God's people, our neighbors, families and friends.

Rise Up!

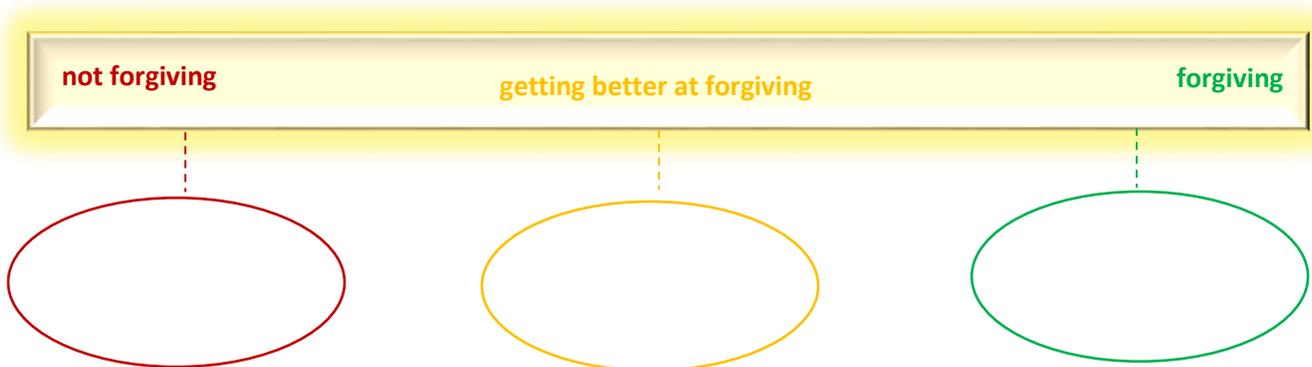
Answers to questions in *What Do You Think are underlined.*

Tell students to unscramble the words in the Servant Anagram. Then discuss how each word fits in the parable.

inoprs=**prison** iillmnos=**millions** venes=**seven** npassomcio=**compassion**
efgiorv=**forgive** aenrstv=**servant**

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students Zion and Zaya are making a "forgiveness meter" to see if they are doing a good job at forgiving others. You can make one too by listing the times you did not forgive others and the times you forgave others.



Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a forgiveness sign.

Materials needed: Glue, cardstock paper, markers

Instructions: Tell students to write something someone did to hurt or offend them on the front of the sign. Then encourage them to write their forgiveness message on the back of the sign.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for always forgiving us and loving us. Lord help us to be able to forgive and love the same way that you do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lesson 6 – July 8, 2018 | Matthew 23: 1-4, 23-26

Practice What You Preach

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play I Am a...

Make flash cards with different roles. (Example: preacher, singer, dancer, athlete, doctor, artist, etc.) Shuffle the cards and place them face down on a table. Allow each student to pick a card. The student must act out the role by starting with the phrase "I am a...". The class then tries to fill in the blank by guessing what the role is.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

Justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced. (Matthew 23:23)

Tell students to write the missing word in the verse to remember that has a similar meaning to words in the boxes below.

righteousness	mercy	confidence
fairness	grace	belief
justice	kindness	faith

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about Jesus and the Unjust Leaders aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about Jesus and the Unjust Leaders

Zaya – The scribes and the Pharisees had difficulty with Jesus’ teachings and authority.

Zion – Yes. They did not want the people to listen to Jesus because they considered themselves the authorities and leaders.

Zaya – In their day, they were. But now, Jesus was on the scene and Jesus had come directly from God.

Zion – But the scribes and Pharisees didn’t believe this and sought to squash Jesus’ teachings and minimize His miracles and healing. And they certainly did not like Jesus *“hanging out”* with the *“common folk.”*

Zaya – So the scribes and Pharisees sought the opportunity to kill Jesus.

Today’s lesson is believed to have occurred after Jesus’ triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem, on the way to His final destination on earth. A crowd had gathered and, as was His custom, Jesus used the opportunity to teach.

Jesus said, *“The scribes and Pharisees have the authority to tell you what the law of Moses says”* (Matthew 23:2). They were considered the scholars in Jesus’ day. They were the interpreters of the Law God gave to Moses. Even though they interpreted the Law strictly, they added tradition and regulations which they made equal with the Law.

Jesus encouraged His hearers to respect the scribes and Pharisees’ position and their interpretation of the Law. Jesus made it clear that He *“did not come to abolish [the law] but to fulfill [it]”* (Matthew 5:17). But Jesus warned the people about doing as they said because they did not practice what they preached. They insisted that the people follow tradition and customs that they themselves did not follow.

In the Bible, this passage is titled *“The Seven Woes”* but in today’s lesson, we will study two accusations that Jesus made against the scribes and Pharisees. In both instances, Jesus identified their character with these words: *“You are hypocrites!”* (Matthew 23:13).

Jesus warned the scribes and Pharisees against maximizing the trivial and minimizing justice, mercy and faith. The scribes and Pharisees were proud of tithing garden herbs and mint. But they had no concern for people. Tithing was what they should have done, but what they were tithing was of little consequence, for it really did not meet the needs of the people. They should have been concerned with all of God’s people.

Jesus characterized their actions by using a metaphor – *“straining wine through cloth to keep out a tiny gnat”* (Matthew 23:24 paraphrased).

Then Jesus warned the scribes and Pharisees of disregarding their inner sinning while giving attention to external rituals. The example that Jesus referred to was *“the washing of cups and plates”* (Matthew 23:25) inside and outside. In Matthew 15:18, Jesus said, *“But those things that proceed out of the mouth come forth and defile a person.”* Real change happens from the inside out. Paul said, *“We are transformed by the renewing of our mind”* (Romans 12:2) – from the inside out!

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Listen to the lyrics of “Inside Out” by the Mississippi Mass Choir. What do you think they mean? (Answers will vary.)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students Zion and Zaya want to make a graphic novel about why it is important for our words to match our actions. Help them by making a “Practice What You Preach” cartoon.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a “Practice What You Preach” graphic novel.

Materials needed: Practice What You Preach Cartoons completed in superhero challenge

Instructions: Assemble the cartoons like a book to create a graphic novel. (Optional: Make copies of the cartoons so that each student can have a book to take home.)

Close the lesson with prayer.

Dear God, thank you for teaching me how to determine good from bad. Help me to make good decisions. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Lesson 7 – July 15, 2018 | Luke 18: 1-8

Get What's Fair

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “How Many Times?”

Ask a series of questions like “How many times do you usually have to ask your mother for something you want? What do you do when she says no? How does this make you feel?”

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verses to remember aloud.

[God] will quickly grant justice. (Luke 18:8)

Ask students to use the missing words in the verse to remember to complete the crossword puzzle.

Jesus talked about persistence. He told His disciples to “*always pray and not give up*” (Luke 18:1). Then Jesus told a story demonstrating persistence: There was a woman who went to a judge and asked for assistance. She did not feel that she was being treated fairly. The judge did not believe in God and did not respect people, so he refused to help her. But she kept going back to him and asking for help. After some time, because the woman was persistent and kept trying over and over again to receive assistance, the judge decided to help her.

Just as the woman was persistent in seeking help, we must keep trying and praying.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Review the Lord’s Prayer. (Ask students why they think this is a prayer we say often in church. Answers will vary but emphasize it is the prayer Jesus taught the disciples.)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Ask students if they know what a parable is. Answers may vary but you should reinforce the definition. A parable is a simple story Jesus used to illustrate a moral lesson. Tell students to help Zion and Zaya teach their friends about fairness and justice by making up a parable based on their own experiences.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a prayer magnet.

Materials needed: Self-adhesive magnet strips, glossy cardstock squares, white paper squares, glue, markers

Instructions: Before class cut the cardstock and white paper into fourths to create squares. The paper square should be slightly smaller than the cardstock square. Give each student a cardstock square and a paper square. Tell students to write a prayer on the paper square with the marker. Stick the magnet strips on the non-glossy side of the cardstock square. Glue the paper square to the glossy side of the cardstock square. Allow the magnets to dry.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for hearing our prayers. God help us to remember to talk to you daily so that you can talk to us daily. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

It Takes Discipline

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “Knock, Knock.”

Tell a few “knock, knock” jokes. Give instructions on how “knock, knock” jokes are told to ensure every student knows that when you say, “knock, knock,” they are supposed to say, “who’s there?” And when you say the name, they are supposed to say the name and “who?”

Knock, Knock. (Who's there?) Ben. (Ben who?) Ben knocking for ten minutes. Please let me in.

Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Doris. (Doris who?) Doris locked, that's why I'm knocking.

Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Adore. (Adore who?) Adore is between us, please open up!

Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Lettuce. (Lettuce who?) Lettuce in, it's cold out here!

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

Enter through the narrow door. (Luke 13:24)

Tell students to decode the verse to remember.

E n t e r t h r o u g h t h e n a r r o w
5 14 20 5 18 20 8 18 15 21 7 8 20 8 5 14 1 18 18 15 23

d o o r .
4 15 15 18

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about Entering God’s Kingdom aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about Entering God’s Kingdom

Zion – You know if we want to participate in the school play, we have to audition.

Zaya – And if we want to play on the soccer team, we must “go out” for the team.

Zion – Yes. Almost any activity we want to participate in, we must meet certain standards.

Zaya – But in today’s lesson, Jesus taught about “getting into” the kingdom of God. How different this is!

As Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem for the last time, He was confronted by someone who asked Him, *“Lord, how many people will be saved? Only a few?”* (Luke 13:22).

Jesus answered, *“Try hard to enter through the narrow door that opens the way to heaven”* (13:23). What did Jesus mean? Jesus was referring to one’s commitment and persistence.

Then Jesus used a word picture/metaphor about a house. He said that once the master has closed the door, many will be standing outside, knocking on the door and pleading for entrance: *“Sir, open the door for us.” The master of the house responded, “I don’t know you”* (13:25).

Jesus was describing those who have been disobedient, have not followed God’s Word, nor done His will.

But those outside the locked door will try to convince the master of their worthiness to enter the house – *“We ate and drank with you. You taught us in the street”* (13:26). The master will say, *“Go away! You are evil”* (13:27).

When those outside get a glimpse of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all the prophets, they will cry – they will be distraught. They will be much like the rich man who looked up from hell and saw Lazarus in heaven in the arms of Abraham (Luke 16:19-31).

Jesus said, *“People will come from the east, west, north and south”* – that includes people who had no ancestral tie to Abraham. All nations will bow before the Lord – *“all knees shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”* Then Jesus concluded with these words – *“The first (those who are privileged leaders) shall be last and the last (publicans, Gentiles, the poor) shall be first”* (13:30).

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Discuss who will enter the kingdom of God. (Answers may vary but encourage students to look back at the conversation between Zion and Zaya to confirm their answers.)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students Zion and Zaya want to be better followers of Christ. Make a list of actions they can do to accomplish this goal.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a door hanger.

Materials needed: Craft foam door hangers (can be purchased from a craft store), craft foam stickers and letters (at least 500 pieces), permanent marker

Instructions: Give each student a craft foam door hanger. Allow students to decorate their door hanger with craft foam stickers and letters. Use the permanent marker to write “Jesus is the Way” on the door hanger.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Thank you that he leads us into the right way so that we can live in your Heavenly Kingdom. Holy Spirit, show us how to faithfully follow Jesus all the days of our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Lesson 9 – July 29, 2018 | Luke 14: 15-24

Come One! Come All!

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Watch the “Parable of the Great Banquet.”

Show the YouTube video of the Parable of the Great Banquet

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f7DZZgAPpY>).

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

Bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. (Luke 14:21)

Tell students to solve the riddle to reveal the verse to remember.

Br + thing – th = **Bring** | pin – p = **in** | top – op + hat – at + e = **the** | p + floor – fl = **poor**
t + she – s = **the** | c + trip – t + pled = **crippled** | these – se = **the** | bl + find – f = **blind**
candy – c – y = **and** | top – op + hat – at + e = **the** | lamb – b + e = **lame**

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about the Invitation to God’s Kingdom aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about the Invitation to God’s Kingdom

Zion – How would you feel if someone declined your invitation to your party?

Zaya – My feelings would probably be hurt and I would wonder what the reason was. But I would try to understand.

Jesus told a parable about a great feast. The host was preparing a magnificent feast, so he sent his servant to invite several guests. When the feast was ready, the host sent the servant to tell the invited guests:

“Come, for everything is now ready” (Luke 14:17).

But the servant encountered a number of excuses when he approached the invitees.

One man said, *“I have bought a field and I must go and see it” (14:18).* (Who buys a field sight unseen?)

The second man offered this excuse: *“I have just bought five yoke of oxen and am on my way to try them out. Please excuse me” (14:19).* (Who purchases oxen without knowing if they will perform as he needs them to perform?)

The third man said, *“I have just gotten married, so I can’t come” (14:20).* (Didn’t he have the invitation before he got married?)

When the servant reported back to the host, the host became angry and ordered his servant: *“Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the blind, and the lame” (Luke 14:21).* So the servant issued the invitation to them. And all of these invitees came.

But the host’s table still was not full, so he told his servant, *“Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men I invited who offered excuses will get a taste of my banquet” (14:23-24).*

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Who rejected the invitation to the great banquet? The men originally invited.

Why do you think the people in the “streets and alleys” and “roads and country lanes” were not invited initially? (Answers will vary.)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students to help Zion and Zaya pick up groceries for the great feast their church is having to feed families in need. Draw the food you want them to serve in the shopping cart.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make an invitation.

Materials needed: Large index cards, construction paper, ribbon, markers, crayons, glitter glue, glue

Instructions: Give each student an index card. Allow students to use the other materials to create an invitation to the great feast Zion and Zaya are hosting. Encourage them to be creative.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, please allow us to be able to be a blessing to someone that may look different than us or have less than we do. We thank you for giving all of us a special invitation to your Kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.