

GOD FORGIVES THE DEBT THAT  
WE CANNOT PAY

## BIG TRUTH: GOD FORGIVES THE DEBT THAT WE CANNOT PAY

Isaiah 43:25; Romans 5:10; 6:17-18, 23; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:13-19; Colossians 2:13-14

## BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 1:7A

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses."*

## BIG IDEAS

- God is forgiving.
- God offers forgiveness through Jesus, who pays our debt.
- Someone must pay the debt that we owe.
- The debt that we owe to God is impossible for us to pay.

## BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 18:21-35

When Jesus' disciples asked Him how many times they should forgive someone, Jesus gave them a surprising answer. As many times as a person asks for forgiveness, we should forgive. Jesus shared a story with His followers that revealed just how much God forgives us. Our forgiveness should look like God's forgiveness and when we understand just how much God has forgiven us, we will forgive others.

## FOUNDATION: GOD IS GRACIOUS - GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS

Every person who has ever lived has chosen to reject God, and we deserve to be punished. We deserve complete separation from God because we have willfully chosen to disobey God's law and run from Him. However, God is gracious in that He gives us exactly the opposite of what we deserve. Instead of punishment, He provides a way of salvation by sending Jesus to take the punishment we deserve. We deserve punishment, but instead, we receive grace. Grace is getting a gift that we do not deserve. The way that we receive grace is through forgiveness. When we confess our sins the Bible tells us that He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins because of His redeeming grace.

## BIG AIMS



## Every child should know:

- That God is gracious
- That grace is when God gives us what we do not deserve and cannot earn



## Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the gifts of grace that they have received



## Every child should be able to:

- Recognize things that they have as gifts of grace from God



## Every child should want to:

- To know about God's gift of grace through salvation and forgiveness of our sins

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

**FOUNDATION: GOD IS GRACIOUS - GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS**  
**GOD FORGIVES THE DEBT THAT WE CANNOT PAY****ALWAYS FORGIVE**

Show your child pictures of the ocean. Ask your child how much water they think is in the ocean. Tell them that there is a lot of water in the ocean, more water than we could ever measure. God's forgiveness is like the water in the ocean. We can't measure it because it is so great. That's how our forgiveness should be also.

**DISCOVER IT:**

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

The king forgave his servant the very large debt that he owed. The king had every right to sell the servant and the servant's family, but the king didn't. The servant begged the king for mercy and the king gave him mercy. Unfortunately, the servant didn't show the same kind of forgiveness to his fellow servant. Instead, the first servant began to choke his fellow servant and was going to kill him. When the king saw this, he was angry and threw the first servant into prison. Jesus' story is an example of how God, the Father shows us forgiveness and how we should forgive others. When we realize just how much God has forgiven us, we will show forgiveness to others. We cannot put a limit on how many times we forgive someone else because God has not put a limit on how much He will forgive us. We must forgive always and a lot because God has forgiven us a lot.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

- What happened when the first servant begged for forgiveness? (The king forgave him and wiped away his debt.)
- Did the first servant show the same type of forgiveness to his fellow servant? (No, he choked his fellow servant and was going to kill him.)
- How much should we forgive others? (We should always forgive others and forgive them a lot because God has forgiven us.)

**KNOW**

Help your child memorize Ephesians 1:7a by playing beanbag toss with them. Every time the beanbag hits a designated mark, you get to say the verse out loud.

**DO**

As you go through your week, look for opportunities to teach your child to forgive others. When they get upset at you for saying "no" to something or they don't want to share a toy or they feel wronged, teach them how they can forgive others because God has forgiven us.

**FEEL**

Take your child on a drive to a place where you can see a lot of stars. Ask your child to count the stars. Spend some time talking about the stars and the sky. Tell your child that our sin debt is like the stars. It's so great that we can't pay it ourselves, but God paid it for us. He forgave us our sin debt and we don't have to pay it if we place saving faith in Jesus.

**WANT**

Spend some time as a family singing praise songs to God thanking Him for His forgiveness.