

How Many Times?

based on Matthew 18:21-35

One day Peter came to Jesus and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone? Seven times?"

"Seven times?" asked Jesus. "No, more like 77 times."

Perhaps Peter looked puzzled, because Jesus told him this story:

The kingdom of heaven is like the king who wanted to pay his servants all he owed them, and for them to pay all they owed him. Then they would be even steven.

A servant came before the king.

"I see that you owe me 10,000 bags of gold," the king said to him. "Pay me, or I will sell you and your family."

The frightened servant said, "Great king, please, give me more time and I will pay you back."

The king looked kindly on the frightened servant. "OK, you do not have to pay the money."

The servant jumped up, filled with joy. He hurried home. On the way, he met someone who owed him 100 coins. The servant who had just been forgiven by the king grabbed the other servant and said, "Pay me what you owe me. Right now!"

The second servant cried, "Give me more time and I will pay you back."

But the first servant said, "No! You will go to prison."

As it happened, other servants of the king saw this and told the king about it.

The king became angry. Because the first servant would not forgive the servant who owed him 100 coins, the king sent the first servant to prison until he could pay the gold back to the king.

Just like the king, we are to forgive others.

Do the Math

To reveal two messages for today, do the math problem in each box. On the first line below, write each letter from a box that had the answer 7 in order and cross it out. On the second line, write the remaining letters in order.

F	G	O	R	O	G	D	I
0+7	4+4	9-2	3+4	10-6	9-2	2+2	1+6

L	V	E	O	V	O	E	T
8-4	5+2	8-1	1+5	3+0	7-0	1-1	4+3

S	H	Y	E	R	O	S	U
9-6	0+7	6-3	5+2	2+5	0+5	6+1	3+6

7?

77!