



ELEMENTARY

**Week of October 4**

**Bible Story:** The Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

**The Jesus Storybook Bible (JSB):** Running Away 272-279. (separate from this story)

**BIG Idea:** Jesus forgives us so we should forgive others.

**Bible Story Video:** <https://youtu.be/ED3fzkS-bhA>

**THE BIG BIBLE STORY**

One day Jesus told Peter, his disciple, a story. It went a little something like this.

A long time ago, there was a very rich king. The king was so rich that he had loaned 10,000 bags of gold to one of his servants. In today's money, that would be about 3 *billion* dollars!

One day the king decided that he wanted his money back, so he had the servant brought to him. Unfortunately, the servant had spent every penny of the 3 billion dollars and couldn't pay the king back. Can you imagine what the servant spent 3 billion dollars on? The king wasn't too happy, so he ordered that the man, his family, and everything he owned to be sold to pay back what he owed.

The servant fell down on his knees. He begged the king for mercy. The servant said, "Give me time. I'll pay back everything!" The king felt so sorry for the servant that he forgave him for everything he owed and let him go without paying back any of the money.

As the servant was leaving, he ran into another servant who owed *him* money. This 2<sup>nd</sup> servant owed the 1<sup>st</sup> servant 100 silver coins. In today's money, that's about 1,000 dollars. That's *nothing* compared to what the 1<sup>st</sup> servant owed the king. The 1<sup>st</sup> servant grabbed the 2<sup>nd</sup> servant by the neck and began to shake him. The 1<sup>st</sup> servant yelled, "Pay back what you owe me." The 2<sup>nd</sup> servant fell to his knees. He begged the 1<sup>st</sup> servant for mercy.

If you were the 1<sup>st</sup> servant who had his 3-billion-dollar debt forgiven by the king, how do you think you would respond to the 2<sup>nd</sup> servant who owes you just a little bit of money? (*Take answers from your child.*) Me too! But that's not what he did. Instead, the 1<sup>st</sup> servant had the 2<sup>nd</sup> servant thrown into prison until he could pay back every penny.

There was a 3<sup>rd</sup> servant who saw what had just happened and he was very angry. So, he marched right over to the king and told him everything that had happened. When the king heard what the 1<sup>st</sup> servant did, he was even angrier.

Listen to what the king said to the 1<sup>st</sup> servant. (*Open your Bible to Matthew 18:32-33 and read aloud.*) "You evil servant," he said. "I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me. Shouldn't you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?" In his anger, the king had the first servant thrown into prison until he could pay back every penny." When Jesus had finished telling this story, He said, "This is what will happen to anyone who refuses to forgive others with their whole heart."

**BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS?**

- How is the king in the story like God?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story to Peter?
- JSB question: How is the father in the story like God?

**BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES**

**Journal:** When we think about how much Jesus has forgiven us, it's easier to forgive other people. Write a letter to Jesus thanking Him for His incredible love and forgiveness.

**Art:** What do you picture when you think of the word "Forgiveness"? Draw it in the space right here.