

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: JESUS IS SALVATION

Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14:12–24

In Luke 14, Jesus told a parable comparing the kingdom of God to a feast. The host invited many guests, but the guests all gave weak excuses for why they weren't coming. The host was determined to bless others with his feast, so he sent his servants to bring in outcasts who would enjoy His feast. In this parable, Jesus points out that God wants all to come and receive His blessings, but those blessings must be accepted. Jesus is salvation, but we must accept Him.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD FORGIVES

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21–35

"Lord, how many times shall I forgive? Up to seven times?" Peter asked. Jesus answer must have shocked Peter. "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Then Jesus told a parable of a servant who was forgiven for an impossible-to-repay debt. That servant then refused to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him. Through this story, Jesus communicated that God has forgiven us for an impossible-to-repay debt of sin, so we should forgive others.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- Rabbinic tradition held that a person should forgive another three times. Peter's offer of seven times was actually generous in comparison.
- Jesus taught, in contrast to rabbinic teaching, that we shouldn't count the number of times we offer forgiveness to others.
- The unmerciful servant owed the king thousands in gold, more money than he could have ever repaid. The second servant owed a few hundred dollars, an amount he could repay, but the unmerciful servant didn't allow him to repay.
- Through this parable, Jesus taught that we should freely forgive as God has forgiven us.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Play Peak and Pit, but instead of sharing the best and worst parts of your day, share about a person who blessed you recently and a person who upset you—someone you may need to forgive. Share with your children that God calls us to forgive others. Read together **Matthew 18:21–35** (**Fire Bible for Kids*, p. 1217). How many times did Jesus tell Peter we should forgive someone? Discuss why the master was upset with his servant. Talk about options for forgiving the person who hurt you (from the Peak and Pit game). Explain that God continues to forgive us and wants us to do the same when we need to forgive others.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- How did the king show mercy to his servant?
- How has God shown you forgiveness?
- Who can you show forgiveness to today?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about God Forgives into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

"(Child's name), **God's love for you stretches from the earth all the way up to heaven. His faithfulness to you reaches the sky.**"

For more information about blessing your child, go to <https://trufirecurriculum.com>. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.

