

Jesus Invites us to Love Him: A Lesson on Forgiveness and God's Love

GRADES 4-6 - Lesson II (Year III, Day 5)

Goal: Help the students understand that no sin is so serious that Jesus will not forgive them if they are truly sorry.

Lesson: Read [Matthew 18: 21-34](#) and/or watch the re-enactment of the [Parable of the Unforgiving Servant](#)

Discussion:

- What does the story tell us about the mercy of God?
- Is God very merciful with us, or just a little bit?

In the story, even though the people who were forgiven acted unjustly to others, they were still forgiven. What does that tell us about God's forgiveness toward us?

Is there anything that we can ever do that is so bad that God cannot forgive it?

NO. No matter what we do, we can always turn back to God if we are truly sorry for our sins, confess them, and ask for God's forgiveness. As Catholics, we seek God's forgiveness for our "bad choices" in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Watch:

[Zacchaeus a tax collector \(Bible Story\)](#) or [Zacchaeus | Bible Story](#) (for more mature students)

Discussion:

- Who was Zaccheus?
- Why were people upset that Jesus went home to eat with Zaccheus?
- Do you think Zaccheus believed he could be forgiven for all the people he had cheated?

Optional Activity: Have the students research some saints who were great sinners before receiving God's mercy. Suggestions: St. Paul, St. Augustine, St. Olga of Kiev, St. Matthew, St. Mary Magdalene, Ven. Matt Talbot

Prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth,
Thank you for giving us free choice.
Send your Holy Spirit to guide us,
so that all our choices may lead us closer to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website