

The Two Debtors

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

Today's Bible story is a short parable Jesus told about two debtors. The men owed different amounts of money; one owed a little money and the other owed a lot. When both men's debts were forgiven, Jesus posed the question of which man would be more grateful. As with many of his stories, Jesus told this parable in order to teach a lesson. The lesson related to this parable is about forgiveness.

It is important to look at the verses that come before this parable in order to understand the context in which Jesus was speaking. Jesus was a guest at the home of a Pharisee named Simon. Jesus had been invited to a banquet at Simon's home. Such occasions were much more public than a dinner party at a private home would be today. The invited guests, including Jesus, were likely reclined on pillows in Simon's home, gathered around a mat that held the food. The presence of uninvited guests gathered around the walls inside the house or in the courtyard, attempting to see who was at the banquet, would not have been uncommon in those days. As Jesus was eating, one of these uninvited guests (*a woman*) approached him. The woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears, used her hair to dry his feet, then anointed his feet with oil she had brought with her. Jesus' host, Simon, grumbled about the woman's actions and about Jesus permitting the woman to wash his feet.

It is in this context that Jesus told the parable of the two debtors. Jesus' question about which debtor would be more grateful is directed at Simon, who hesitantly answered that the one with the greatest forgiven debt would be most grateful. Jesus used this parable to illustrate the power of forgiveness. The woman had experienced the forgiveness of her sins and responded with overwhelming love for Jesus. Simon, on the other hand, hadn't even extended to Jesus the hospitality of washing his feet when he arrived. Simon hadn't experienced the same forgiveness as the woman, not because his sins were less, but because he didn't recognize his need for forgiveness. We know that God forgives our sins. According to this parable, the appropriate response is gratitude.

Bible Story

Luke 7:41-43

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- Welcome
- Kids Stuff:
 - Forgiveness Mandala
- Exploration Station:
 - Forgive S'more

DIVE DEEPER:

- Bible Story Time
- Experience the Story:
 - The Two Debtors
- Look It Up!
- My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- Life Connection:
 - Pay It Forward
- Learn & Serve
 - with the Deep Blue Kids: Passport
- Craft Activity:
 - Erase Away
- Spiritual Practice:
 - Forgiving Fingers

WORSHIP:

- Gather, Sing, and Sign
- Praise and Reflect





JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “My Stories for You” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: FORGIVENESS MANDALA

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 12-13, colored pencils, crayons or markers, scissors (optional)

SAY: Today we will learn about *forgiveness*.

ASK: What do you think *forgiveness* means?

- Distribute the Forgiveness Mandala.
- Encourage children to color the mandala.
- As they color, invite them to think about *forgiveness*. They can use the prayer on the page to guide them as they color.

EXPLORATION STATION: FORGIVE S'MORE

Supplies: chocolate bars, graham crackers, marshmallows

SAY: The Bible story teaches us about forgiveness.

ASK: What does forgiveness mean?

- Let children make and enjoy s'mores.
- As you are eating, have a conversation about forgiveness.

ASK: Have you ever had to forgive someone? Has someone ever forgiven you? What did it feel like?

SAY: Jesus teaches us that we need to offer forgiveness to others, even when it is difficult.



DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 6, then watch video.

ASK: What is a lender? Who should we forgive? Who loved the lender more?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE TWO DEBTORS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 6, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 7:41-43, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the four parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: The Gospel of Matthew also tells a story about forgiving debts. Let's read it together.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 18:21-35, then answer the questions.

ASK: What does this story teach us about forgiveness?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

ASK: What does forgiveness feel like? What does it feel like to forgive? to be forgiven?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: PAY IT FORWARD

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: One way we can act as people of forgiveness is to pay it forward. This means to offer kindness to others without expecting anything in return. Let's learn more about it.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Pay It Forward.



LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: PASSPORT

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 42 (optional), paper, pencils, scissors, world map or globe

 Display the world map or globe.

SAY: The Deep Blue Kids just landed in Armenia!

ASK: Who can find Armenia on the map?

SAY: Let's use our passports to mark our travels.

- Distribute passports or create passports.

ASK: What other places have the Deep Blue Kids visited? (*Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska*)

CRAFT ACTIVITY: ERASE AWAY

Supplies: erasers, paper, pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, the two debtors were forgiven. It's like their debts were completely erased. Let's draw a picture with our erasers to demonstrate God's forgiveness.

- Distribute erasers, paper, and pencils.
- Direct children to shade the entire paper with their pencils. Then have them use the erasers to write words or draw a picture.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: FORGIVING FINGERS

- Invite the children to hold up one hand.

SAY: We can remember how to forgive using our five fingers.

Finger 1 says, "The wrong you have done."

Finger 2 says, "I am sorry I hurt you."

Finger 3 says, "Will you forgive me?"

Finger 4 says, "I won't do it any more."

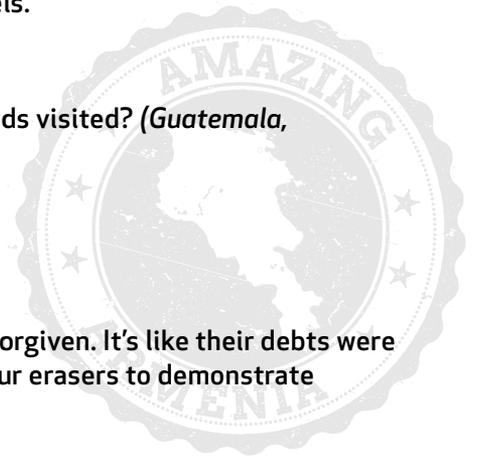
Finger 5 says, "I apologize."

- Let the children repeat this practice after you.



TIP

Consider using small pencil-top erasers. Demonstrate how erasing has to be done carefully.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Write on the board Matthew 7:24. Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “My Stories for You” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible, Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, interactive poster pieces, tape

 Continue to display Matthew 7:24.

SAY: This unit’s Bible verse says, “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock” (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Let’s find the second piece to build our house.

- Display the house model foundation and the model pieces. Invite children to find the outline of the house and assemble by folding on dashed lines and taping together. Then place it on the house model foundation.

SAY: Great job! Next week we will continue building our house.

- Invite children to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us about forgiveness. Help us to be forgiving followers of Jesus. Amen.



Passport

DEEP BLUE PASSPORT
Passport / Passeport / Pasaporte

(DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF)

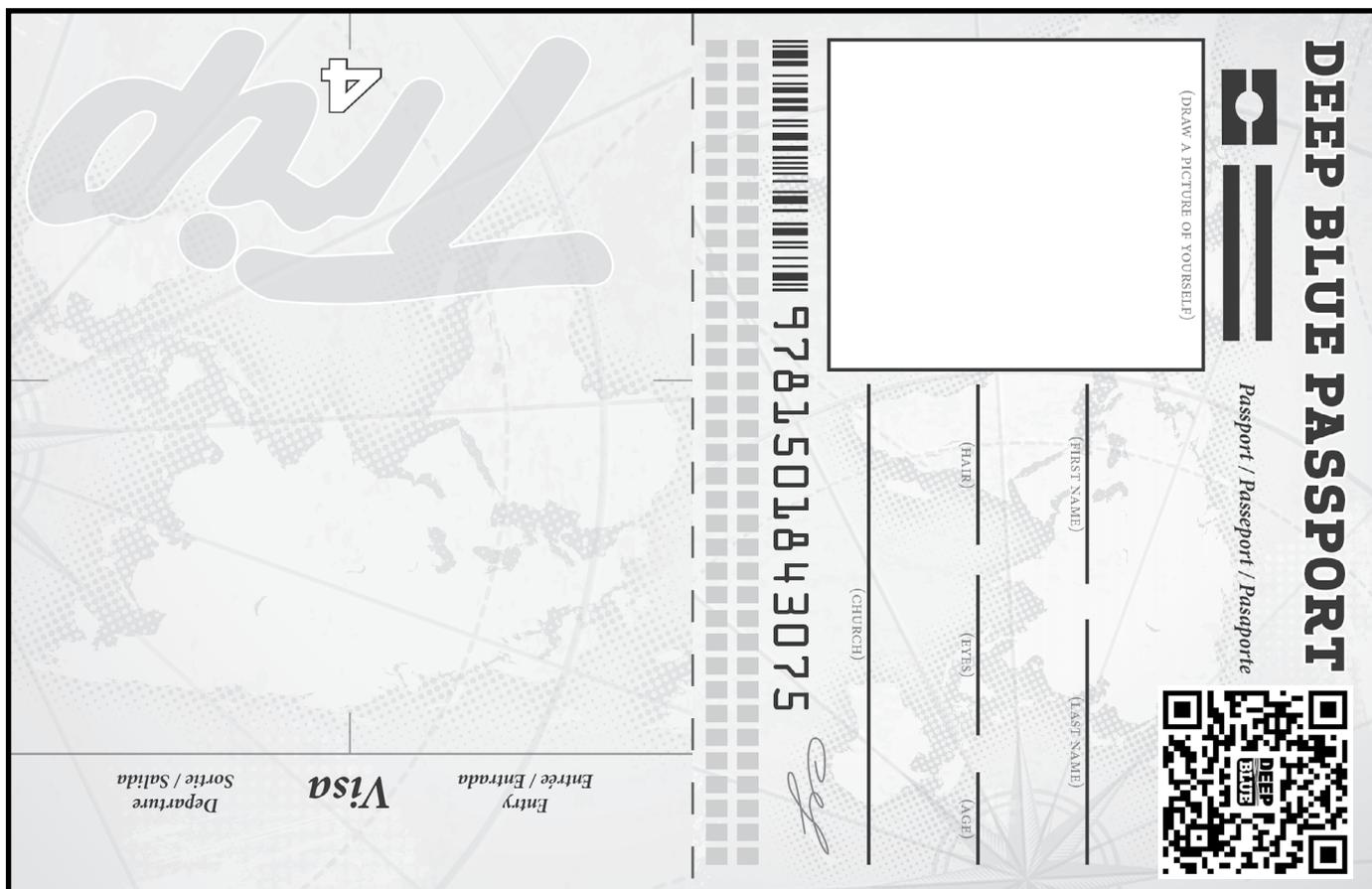
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(FIRST NAME) _____ (LAST NAME) _____
(HAIR) _____ (EYES) _____ (AGE) _____
(CHURCH) _____

[Signature]

Visa
Entry / Entrée / Entrada
Departure / Sortie / Salida

DEEP BLUE



PASSPORT

DEEP BLUE



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