**13 September 2020**

**Matthew 18.21-35**

Peter asks Jesus about the extent of forgiveness. Jesus answers with a funny – and chilling – parable about a man, who is forgiven much but who forgives very little, and is punished by his master for this attitude.

**This week's resources explore:**what an attitude of forgiveness really looks like.

**How many times?**

Act out the story, with roles for a king, two slaves and a jailer.

**Script**

**Narrator:**Peter asked Jesus how often we should forgive someone. Seven times? Jesus told Peter this story about two slaves.

The first slave owed his king 10,000 talents, more money than he could ever pay back. The king came to him, saying:

**King:**It’s time to pay up. If you don’t have the money, you’ll have to sell everything you own – your house, your possessions, even your wife and children.

*The first slave falls to his knees and begs the king.*

**King:** I have changed my mind. You are released from the debt.

**Narrator:**Straight away, the man went out and met another slave. This second slave owed him a smaller amount, just 100 denarii.

**First slave:** Pay up what you owe me!

**Second slave:**Please, have patience. I need more time to pay.

**Narrator:**There was no pity in the first slave, though. He had the man who owed him money thrown into prison, saying he wouldn’t be set free until he had paid his debt.

The jailer arrests and takes away the second slave.

**Narrator:**Of course, all of this was reported back to the king, who was extremely angry.

**King:**I had mercy on you! Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow slave?’

**Narrator:**Then the king handed over the man to be tortured until he had paid everything he owed.

The jailer takes away the first slave.

**Narrator:**Jesus looked at Peter and his other disciples and said, ‘So you must forgive more than seven times. Let’s say seventy-seven times.

All cheer!

**Narrator:**You really have to forgive people with your hearts, not just your mouths.’

**Talk together**(Connect faith with everyday life)

* What do you think Peter might have felt listening to Jesus’ story and answer?
* Has anyone ever forgiven you for something? How did it feel?
* How many times could you forgive someone?