

The Two Debtors

Jesus' Parables **Parables**

Matthew 18:21-35, Luke 7:40-50

"How many times should I forgive?" Peter asked Jesus.

To answer him, Jesus told a parable--a story that teaches something valuable.

There was a man who owed lots and lots of money. It was so much that there was no way he could pay it back. The boss was ready to have the man thrown in prison and his family sold as slaves to try and pay some of the debt, but he bowed down and begged, "Please! Give me more time! I'll pay it!"

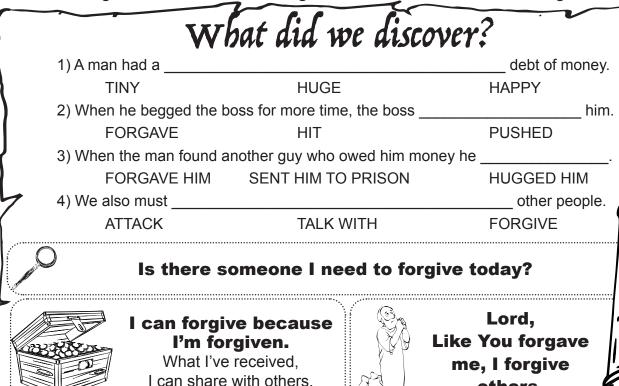
Seeing this, the boss had mercy and forgave all that money. He let him go without paying anything! Wow!

When the servant walked out on the street, he saw another man. This man owed him a little bit of money, not that much. Quickly the man went over and grabbed him by the neck. "Give me what you owe me, now!" he said.

The guy begged for more time, but he wouldn't listen to him. He had him arrested and thrown into jail until he could pay.

When the boss heard about this, he did not like it at all. He called that man back in and said, "You evil servant. I forgave you so much and you didn't forgive a little. Now you have to pay back all of it. To prison and torture with you!"

Jesus explained forgiveness is like this story. If we don't forgive others, we won't be forgiven either. We must forgive so we can receive God's forgiveness.



others.