

## Forgive Them; Words to Live By

### ***Introduction***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

We cannot love others with a true love unless we learn to develop a forgiving spirit. Surely, Jesus has set us the most perfect example of love and forgiveness by paying the debt, which we could not pay, on the cross. Jesus only asks us to forgive others as He forgave us. If we are not willing to forgive others when they have done wrong to us, neither shall our heavenly Father forgive us. Learning to forgive is an important lesson for everyone to learn!

### ***The Scripture***

Read the Scripture to the group.

*“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”—Luke 23:34*

### ***A Real Life Example***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

#### Judy’s Picture

“Girls,” Mom called from the kitchen, “I need you both to do something for me.” Judy and Sara looked up from where they were coloring at the dining room table.

“Yes, Mom?” they both answered.

“Judy, I need you to clean up the kitchen for me, and Sara, I need you to pick up the upstairs.”

“Okay, Mom,” they both answered. Judy started to pick up the colored pencils, while Sara put the coloring books and paper away. They had been drawing special pictures for their grandparents. “Sara, would you take my horse picture up to our room for me? I want to work on it later,” Judy asked.

“Yes,” said Sara, “I will.”

Judy went to the kitchen and started to wash the dishes. Sara started up the stairs, picking up toys as she went. After she had the toys in the hallway picked up, she went into their room to start cleaning. She straightened up the beds, and started to pick up all the toys on the floor and put them in the toy box. “I want to do a good job for Mom!” said Sara to herself. She looked around the room to see if she had missed anything. “Nope! It’s all clean. I picked up all the toys.”

Meanwhile, Judy had just finished the dishes in the kitchen. She carefully wiped the table off and then swept the floor. “There, it’s all clean.” Judy put the broom back in the closet. “I think I’ll get my picture and try to finish it before dinner. I would like to mail it to Grandma and Grandpa tomorrow.” She headed up the stairs and started looking for the picture. “Hmm . . . I thought Sara would have put it on the desk. Where could it be?” Judy looked on her bed, she looked in the

closet, and on the floor—still no picture! She looked and looked and looked. Finally, she looked in the toy box. There was her picture, at the very bottom of the box. The corners were bent, and there was a big crease right in the middle of the drawing. Judy looked at it and almost started to cry. “It’s all messed up! Sara must have forgotten to put in on the desk! I’ll have to start all over!” Judy was very upset. She turned to go and find her sister when she spied her little Bible on her desk. What had they read about this very morning? Something about forgiving? Ah, she remembered . . . “*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”—Matthew 6:14-15. And Daddy had said that sometimes people don’t realize what they have done to you, and that we need to forgive them just like Jesus forgives us. Judy looked sadly at her picture. Judy knew that Sara didn’t mean to mess the picture up. Sara was just doing what Mom had wanted her to do.

“Dear Jesus, please help me to forgive Sara, and please forgive me too,” she prayed silently. Judy smiled as she looked at her picture. It wouldn’t take long to draw another one.

### ***Questions for Discussion***

1. What do you think Judy was feeling when she saw her picture crumpled up at the bottom of the toy box?
2. When Judy was upset and was going to find her sister, what do you think she was going to say to her?
3. According to Matthew 6:14-15, why is it important to forgive?
4. Do people always mean to do something bad to you or to your things? Explain.
5. Do you sometimes do things that you do not really mean to do? Can you give an example?
6. Do you want people to forgive you? Why?
7. Why was it important for Judy to pray immediately about this situation?
8. Judy forgave Sara, and then quickly and happily found a solution to Judy’s own problem. Why do you think it is important to find a solution and get busy working on it?

### ***Conclusion and Resolution***

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

*“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”—Luke 23:34*

Jesus understood that people would often do things to hurt or harm others, to harm their property, or to hurt their feelings. He knew that they would sometimes do it intentionally, and while they did it intentionally, they still really did not understand what they were doing. But more often than not, people unintentionally hurt other people by thoughtless actions or words. It would be an excellent thing if we could take the words of Jesus on the cross, *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*, and use them for our own words to live by.

***Teacher's Notes***

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