



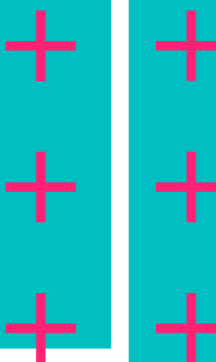
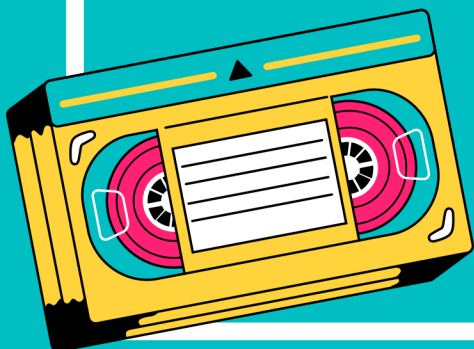
THROW BACK



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

We can always

forgive.





We can always **forgive.**

Matthew 18:23-35; 1 John 3:1-7

Sup homies! Welcome back to Throwback! Each week, we'll go back in time and see that the things Jesus taught are always trending because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! This week, we're going back to the 1990's! Are you ready for the 411? I mean, let's check this out!

We'll see from this week's Bible story that when we choose not to forgive, it can be worse for us than rotting teeth! Let's find out more.

In Matthew 18:23-35, The first servant was forgiven a giant debt that he could never hope to pay back. Even if he worked really hard nonstop for the rest of his life, he would never be able to pay it all back. And even though he was forgiven of this impossible debt, he failed to show mercy to someone who owed him a much smaller debt. Jesus was trying to show the people that God had forgiven them all of something much bigger — their sins. This is something nobody else could forgive, and it was a debt they can never pay back.

Knowing this, they should show their gratitude by being kind and forgiving to others. And we can do the same. Jesus showed us that forgiving others is a good trend to follow!

We will sometimes have to forgive others when it might not feel convenient to us. Maybe we just don't feel like it or we think their apology wasn't good enough. If you ignore those opportunities to forgive, you might ruin a friendship for good.

We always ask God to forgive us, and no matter how many times we ask, God always does. If we remember how lovingly and endlessly God forgives us, we, too, can always forgive.

Beanie Babies were really popular in the 90's! Some Beanie Babies would be easy to find but others were a little harder. Some Beanie Babies were worth a lot of money. So if you wanted one of them, there was a great price to pay.

Now, imagine if someone just handed you an entire box of Beanie Babies. Not because you deserved it. Just because. Even if you're not a fan of these adorable collectibles, you'd be shocked at how much it's worth! Would you be able to believe that someone would just give something so valuable to you?

That's how God gives us love and forgiveness. 1 John 3 tells us that it's a luxurious gift that we didn't deserve or earn, but verse 5 tells us that Jesus "appeared so that he might take away our sins." It's something only Jesus could do because he is the only one who is truly righteous and without sin.

Even though you might not want to do this with your vintage Beanie Babies, God's forgiveness is a gift we can open and share with others. We can always forgive because we have been forgiven, too.



SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- What did the king do for the servant who owed ten thousand bags of gold?
- What did the first servant do to his fellow servant who owed one hundred silver coins?
- Why did the king hand the first servant over to the jailers?
- Read 1 John 3:1
 - How is it possible that we can be called children of God?
- Why can we always forgive?
- What happens when we hold grudges for a long time?
- Knowing that Jesus forgave us and continues to forgive, what are some things you can do to show forgiveness?



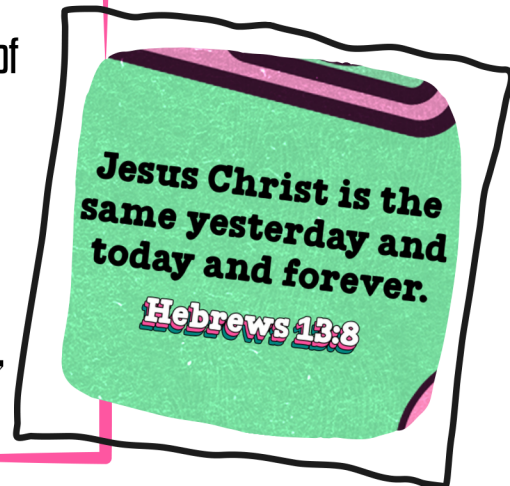
WORSHIP

“Lord Help Me Forgive”

Sovereign Grace Kids

“God’s Great Dance Floor”

Chris Tomlin



ELEMENTARY

People didn't have smartphones in the 90's so if you wanted to take photos, you would have to use a camera that contained a roll of film. Once you used up the entire roll, you would take it to a place where they would develop the photos from the film strips, or negatives. People held on to the negatives in case they wanted to print more copies of the photos.

When it comes to forgiveness though, we don't have to hold onto the negative things. Using the Printable provided, in each of these film squares, write or draw some things that will remind you of all the things we talked about this week (including those wild 90's trends!).

Don't forget to add today's Big Idea in there:
We can always forgive.

PRESCHOOL



Get toilet paper tubes (one roll should yield two to three bracelets) and mark them to the widths you want for each of your bracelets.

Cut along the lines. Decorate the bracelets with alphabet stickers that spell "forgive," markers, and heart stamps.

Loosely wrap the strip around their wrists and secure it with clear tape or glue. Scan QR code for a worked example.

The letters on your bracelet spell the word "forgive." Showing forgiveness means that we can give someone another chance to make a better choice. Jesus taught us that we can always forgive.



