

## **Topic: Proper Humanity – Forgiving (1) (Lesson 107)**

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

### **Elementary:**

Verse: “Then Peter came and said to Him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21).

Focus: We should always be willing to forgive others even if they upset us more than once.

Practical Application: When your brother accidentally breaks your favorite toy, you should forgive him. But what if he broke another one of your favorite toys? Would you still be willing to forgive him? Ask the children how many times they have disobeyed their parents? Wouldn't it be terrible if their parents only forgave them the first time they disobeyed? When Peter asked how often he should forgive someone, he thought the answer was only seven times. But Jesus said to Peter that he needed to forgive someone 70 x 7 times, or 490 times. This means we need to always forgive people.

### **Intermediate:**

Verse: “So also will My heavenly Father do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from your hearts” (Matthew 18:35).

Focus: We should forgive people not only with our mouth but also in our heart. The forgiveness should be genuine and sincere.

Practical Application: A friend might take one of your favorite toys home with him. Later in the week when you go to his house you might find your favorite toy in his room. After your friend says, “I'm sorry,” do you really forgive him in your heart? What do you do the next time your friend comes to your house to play? Do you hide your toys? A year later do you say to your friend, “Remember when you took my favorite toy home?” When we forgive others we need to forgive with our heart.

### **Advanced:**

Verse: “For if you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also” (Matthew 6:14).

Focus: Genuine forgiveness comes from God. Because God is forgiving towards us, we also need to forgive others.

Practical Application: If we are not willing to forgive others, then God is not willing to forgive us of our offenses towards others. Consider telling the story in Matthew 18:22-35 about the slave who received forgiveness for a great debt but was not willing to forgive someone else with a smaller debt. How do you feel when you know you have done something wrong and the person forgives you? Would you feel terrible if the person did not forgive you? If you are grateful for being forgiven, then you also need to be willing to forgive others.