
“Have Mercy!” Bible Craft Ideas for Forgiving Others

The lesson for the parable of the unmerciful servant focuses on how we offer mercy to one another. We want to impart to students the importance of forgiveness, and how it breaks the chains of discontent and wipes our slates clean. These crafts emphasize the “infinite number” of times we should forgive, and also remind children that mercy can set us free and erase the wrongs that we sometimes do.



Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider...

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

-Matthew 18:21-22

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. -Hebrews 4:16

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. -Matthew 6:14-15

Forgiveness breaks our chains!

Mercy...it erases sin!

Forgive others...as God forgives You.

More than Seventy Times...Forgive!

More Teaching Helps

- You can watch a [demonstration video](#) of these crafts on our [YouTube page](#).
- We add new [Bible lessons](#), [children’s sermons](#), and [Sunday School craft ideas](#) every week based on the current church calendar reading schedule.



Craft one: “Seventy and then Some”

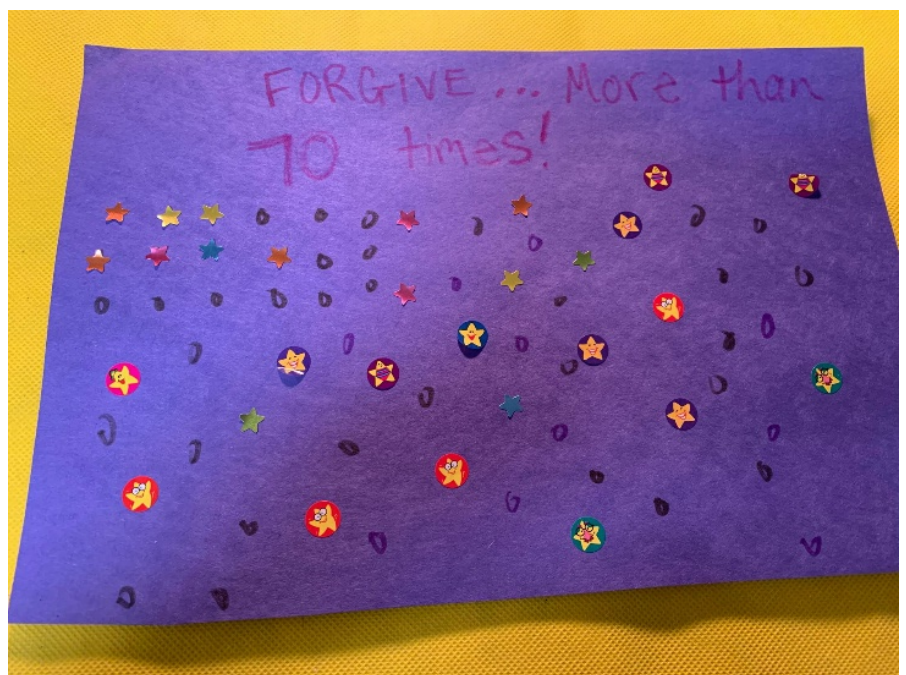
You will need:

- Stickers or other small decorative items
- Glue or tape
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Verse caption or extra decoration (optional)



Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper with a verse caption depicting the number “70” in some sense.
2. Practice counting (or use up time!) by counting to seventy: use small candies, stickers, tick marks, dots, or other decorations to count up to seventy on the construction paper.
3. Remind students that we are to forgive people not just 70 or 490 times, but again and again. That’s what God does for us!
4. Add a string or pipe cleaner if you’d like to make this into a decoration.



Craft Two: “Forgiveness Erases Wrong” Heart

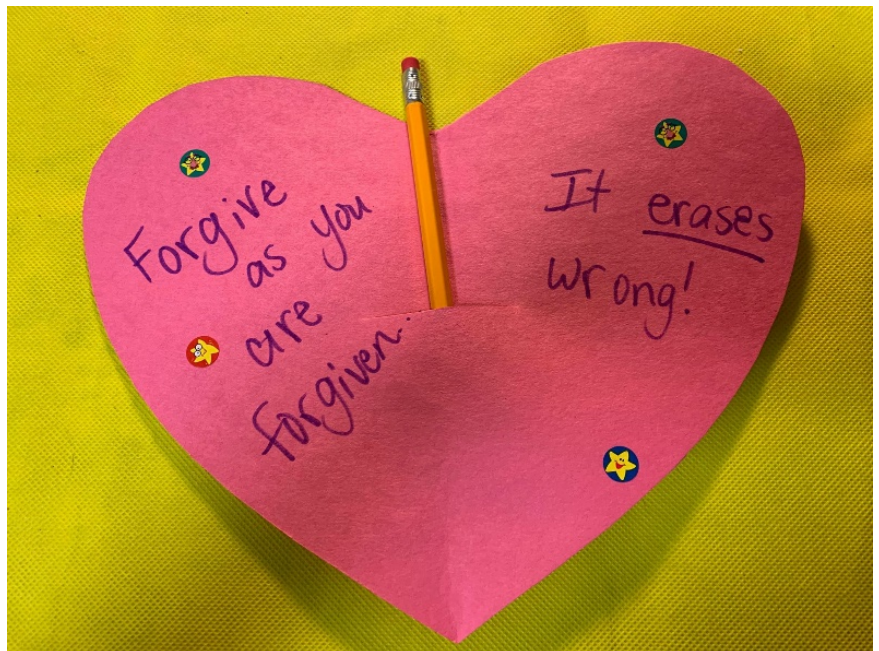
You will need:

- Glue and/or tape
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Caption or verse (Optional)
- Markers or crayons
- Pencils with erasers
- Extra decorations (optional)



Procedure:

1. Cut the paper into a heart shape.
2. Decorate the heart with verses, stickers, colors, or other items as desired.
3. Cut a slit in the back of the heart, and insert a pencil with eraser.
4. Give the heart away as a gift, or attach a hanger to use as a reminder that forgiveness “erases” sins!



Craft Three: “Set Free Handcuffs”

You will need:

- Paper, cut into strips
- Pipe cleaners
- Aluminum foil
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons



Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper strips if desired, adding a verse or caption.
2. Staple the paper strips together to make a “chain” link.
3. Add pipe cleaner “cuffs” on each side.
4. Add aluminum foil to embellish wherever preferred.
5. Demonstrate how to wear and then “break” the handcuffs, just like forgiveness breaks our chains!





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO. She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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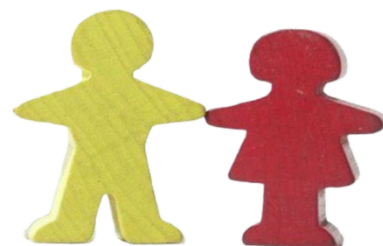
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