

Children's Corner

A magazine for Children published by the
Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of the Reformation



Vol. TWENTY-EIGHT No. One January—March 2016

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,

*as we forgive those who
trespass against us.*

Peter once came to Jesus. He asked, "How many times do I need to forgive my brother? Seven times?"

Jesus replied, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." Christ has done so much for us to forgive our sins. Out of love to Jesus in gratitude for what He has done for us, we should always forgive.

Now to illustrate His point, Jesus told the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21-35).

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. Matt. 18,23-35.

V. 23. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king which would take account of his servants.

V. 24. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him which owed him ten thousand talents.

V. 25. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

V. 26. The servant, therefore, fell down and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

V. 27. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

We have broken God's holy ten commandments. Each time we sin we incur a debt, a debt we can never repay.

In Matthew 6 and Luke 11, Jesus used the word "debt" instead of "trespass". The earliest English translations of the Bible used this word. Over time, people have simply stuck with that form.

We owe it to God to do His holy will. Since we do not give God the obedience that we owe Him, we are His debtors. It is wrong for anyone to think that he does not need this prayer every day. 1 John 1:8:
"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Like the servant, we must plead guilty before God.

But we can approach God in hope, for the sake of Christ. We must come before God as the prodigal son came to his father. We must confess, "I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

Our prayer must be a prayer of faith and a prayer in the name of Jesus.

We know that God forgives sins for

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Jesus' sake. Jesus has paid the huge debt for us.

"Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin." Hymn 208, verse 5.

Let us trust in God's mercy for Jesus' sake. 1 John 1:9:

V. 9. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

So when we pray: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us", we are praying that:

Our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins;
That on their account we pray He will not deny our prayer;
We acknowledge that we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them;
That He would grant them all to us by grace (His undeserved kindness); for we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment.
We may have the strength to heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.



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We have so far examined the Lord's Prayer up until the fifth petition. Here we are taught to pray for spiritual and temporal blessings. God hears our prayers and grants us these things, but our blessings are continually spoiled by our sins.

In the last three petitions we ask God to take and keep us from that which is evil. The greatest of all evils we face is sin.

Hence in the fifth petition Jesus instructs us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses".

But if we receive forgiveness from God, we must also forgive those who sin against us. What are our neighbour's sins against us compared to our sins against God? The servant owed his master 10 000 talents (millions of dollars). His fellow servant owed him only 100 pence (merely several hundred dollars).

V. 28. But the same servant went out and found one of his fellow-servants which owed him an hundred pence; and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

V. 29. And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

V. 30. And he would not, but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

V. 31. So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

V. 32. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt because thou desiredst me.

V. 33. Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?

V. 34. And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, until he

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should pay all that was due unto him.

V. 35. So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

If God forgives us, we ought to forgive one another. No worship that we offer to God will be acceptable to Him as long as we do not forgive. Mark 11: 26:

V. 26. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Christians through faith desire to be like Jesus. Jesus freely forgave those who nailed Him to the cross. So we must always be willing to forgive those who have done us an injury.

May this be our heart's prayer:

O Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake forgive us all our sins. Teach us to love one another, and to exercise patience and forgiveness towards our enemies. May we repay no man evil for evil, but to be merciful, even as Thou, our Father in heaven, art merciful. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Jesus, Lord and Master,
At Thy sacred feet,
Here, with heart rejoicing,
See Thy children meet.
Often we have left Thee,
Often gone astray.
Keep us, mighty Saviour,
In the narrow way.
Hear us, blessed Saviour,
Hear our humble cry,
Lead us ever onward
To our home on high.*

(TJW)

**And Forgive US
Our Trespasses**



**As we Forgive
Those who Trespass
Against Us**



Thinking Test:

How many examples from the Bible can you think of where somebody forgave his/her neighbour for doing wrong to them? Write them out below.

1-3—Good; 4-6—Great; 7-8—Excellent

COLOURING



YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Do you know that every lesson you learn in Sunday School is for your own good? Through your teachers and your lessons God Himself is talking to you. It is very important that you learn to respect the things he tells you. You should try to apply everything that you learn in your own little life as much as you can.

If we try our best we know that Jesus will always stand by us. We need only to ask Him to help us.

GOLDEN TEXT: Romans 5:12

By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Dear Children.— Beautiful as is the picture the Bible draws for us of the earth as God made it, and of man in his perfection and innocence as God created him, we know that there is something in the world and in the hearts of men that has spoiled the plans of God for the perfect happiness He had intended for His creatures when He created them. It is — **Sin**. Listen while you hear the sad, sad story of how man became a sinner, that is, disobedient to his Creator .

THE FALL OF MAN

GENESIS 3

The Temptation. — One day, while the woman whom Adam had called Eve, was near the midst of the garden which God had planted, she noticed a serpent. But it was not just a serpent. It was also the devil, God's great enemy, who had taken the form of a serpent, for he had come to deceive and lead into sin these glorious beings whom God had made.

Eve knew that the serpent was more cunning than all the other beasts of the field, but she was, no doubt, much surprised when she heard the serpent speak, for he said to her: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Now God had not said that at all, but the devil wished Eve to doubt God's Word, and that is how he began to tempt her. She replied, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

At first the devil had cast **doubt** upon God's Word, but now he went a big

step further, for he said to Eve, "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day yet eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil." In other words, he tried to make Eve believe that eating of the forbidden fruit would make her wise and like God. This was a flat contradiction of God's Word as you see.

Sin. — Now Eve should not have listened at all to the voice of the tempter, but instead of turning away she looked at the tree and saw that its fruit was good for food and pleasing to the sight, and she thought it must be very fine thing to be wise. You see, she already doubted whether it was quite true what God had said. In that moment she was no longer innocent child of God but she had become a sinner.

The next followed very quickly, for she took of the fruit and did eat, and gave also unto her husband and he ate. By doing this they showed that they believed the devil rather than God. They had fallen away from God.

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What now happened? Their eyes were indeed opened, as Satan had said, but they did not become like God. Rather they became like Satan, and they now became aware that they were naked. Because they had become sinners they felt ashamed, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God who was walking in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

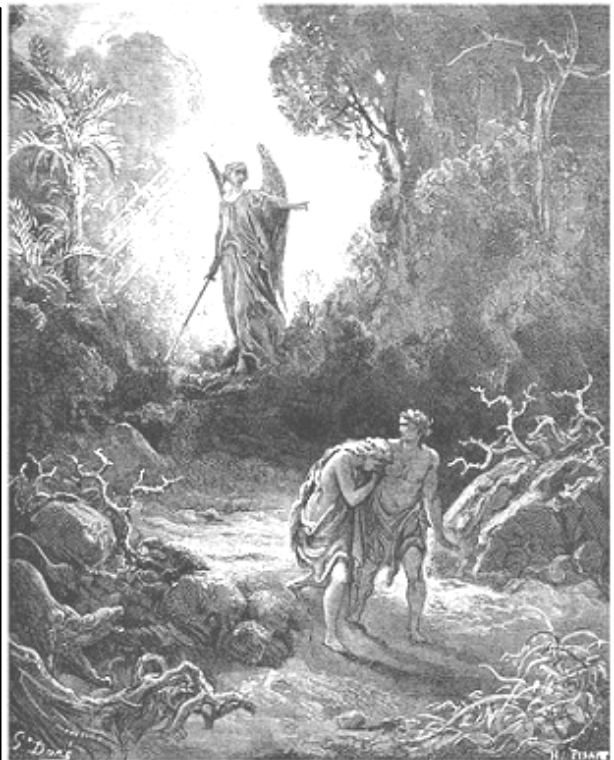
And God called to Adam, saying "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And God said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" And the man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." And God said to the woman, "What is this that thou had done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

The Sentence. — And the Lord God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; He shall crush thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel.**"

And unto the woman He said, "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children: and thy desire shall be unto thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." And unto Adam He said, "Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, cursed is the ground for thy sake, in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the

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ground; for out of it wast thou taken:



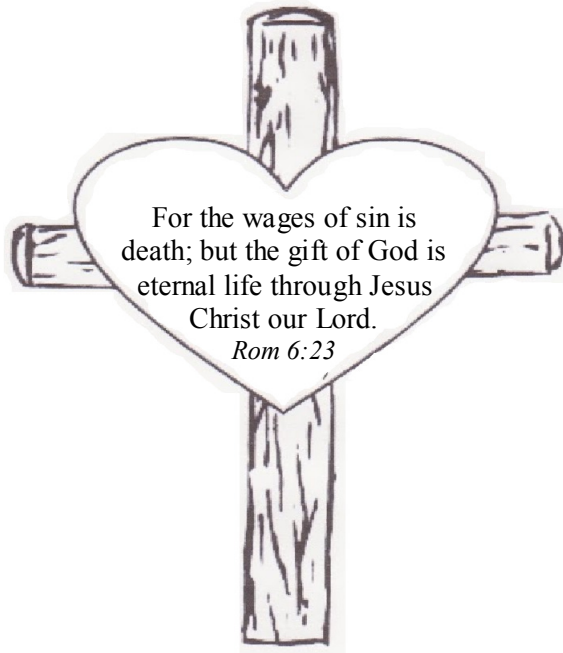
for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return."

And God made coats of skin for Adam and Eve and clothed them, and sent them forth from the garden of Eden. And He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Dear Children, — That is how man fell away from God and became a sinner. All men are the children of Adam, and like him they are sinners. The ways of Satan in tempting men to sin are clearly outlined in this lesson. In order to destroy men Satan seeks to fill his heart with unbelief towards his God. To do that, he first tries to make man doubt God's Word. From doubt comes unbelief.

From unbelief flow other sins. The result of sin is death, that is, everlasting separation from God. From this dreadful result of sin no man can save himself, neither can one man save another; neither can any angel save man, but only God Himself is able to save. God's promise to save man from the

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result of his fall into sin is contained in the words: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. He shall crush thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

The seed of the woman is the promised Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who was to become man, fulfill God's law in man's stead and for man, and to take upon Himself man's guilt, suffer and die as all men's substitute, be the great sin-bearer of the world, and thus satisfy God's wrath against sin, and make it possible for man to become again the loving and obedient child of God.

Adam and Eve fell under the rule of sin and death by doubt and unbelief; to be saved every man, woman, and child must do the very opposite; they must firmly believe the words and promises of God.

Chief of sinners though I be,
 Jesus shed His blood for me;
 Died that I might live on high,
 Lived that I might never die;
 As the branch is to the vine,
 I am His, and He is mine. (Hymn 196:1)

(Taken from "Our Sunday School Paper" Feb 12, 1939. Used by permission.)

QUESTIONS

1. Who tempted man to sin? Where? Why?
2. In what form did he come?
3. To whom did he come?
4. What did he first put into Eve's heart?
5. What did he say?
6. What did she reply?
7. What did Satan then say?
8. Whom did he contradict?
9. Who believed him?
10. What did she do?
11. How did she desire to become?
12. What then did she do?
13. To whom also did she give of the fruit?
14. What did Adam do?
15. What happened with their eyes?
16. What did they know?
17. What had they lost?
18. What did they sew for themselves?
19. Whose voice did they then hear?
20. So what did they do?
21. Whom did God call?
22. What did he say?
23. What did Adam reply?
24. What did God then say?
25. What was Adam's answer?
26. What did God say to the woman?
27. Upon whom did she put the blame?
28. What did God say to the serpent?
29. Which words contain the promise of a Saviour?
30. What did He say to the woman?
31. What was God's sentence upon Adam?
32. What did God make for Adam and Eve?
33. Whence did He send them?
34. How did he prevent them from returning?
35. Who is the great enemy of God and man?
36. Whom does Satan try to destroy?
37. What does he first try to implant in man's heart?
38. To what does doubt lead?
39. What flows from unbelief?
40. What is the result of sin?
41. Who alone can save us from sin and death?
42. In whom must we believe to be saved?

PUZZLES



HOME EXERCISES

1. Think carefully over the following: When Adam and Eve had sinned they noticed that they were naked in a bodily sense. But they were now also truly naked in another sense. They had lost the precious innocence with which God had created them. Fig leaves could not cover their sin and shame. What alone can cover man's sin from the flaming eye of God's righteousness?
 2. In which words did Adam excuse himself for his fall and put the blame on God?
 3. Name some of the results of sin.
 4. Here are some opposites; learn them:
 - a. Satan — God.
 - b. Doubt — confidence.
 - c. Unbelief — faith.
 - d. Sin — righteousness.
 - e. Death — life.
 - f. Hell — heaven.
 5. Notice in exercise (4) how one thing follows out of another. Notice what comes of following Satan. Notice what results from following the ways of God.
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