Forgiveness is difficult work for anyone at any age. Letting go of the hurt and anger we feel when someone wounds us is challenging. And forgiveness is uniquely difficult for preteens, since it’s during this stage when they develop fierce loyalties to friends and they’re testing newly discovered (and still awkward) social skills. Preteens try on and discard ways of relating like clothing in a mall dressing room. Inevitably, one friend will offend another and the end result is hurt and confusion. The upside is this dynamic creates ever-present opportunities for kids to practice forgiveness.

**• What surprised you about what happened in Jesus’ parable?**

**• Explain whether you think the king was right in what he did to the man who wouldn’t forgive the other man’s debt.**

**• Tell about a time you needed to forgive someone but didn’t.**

**• Explain what you think the Bible passage means when it says to “forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”**

**• Why do you think it matters to God whether you forgive someone from your heart or not?**

**God wants us to forgive others—even people who do bad things to us over and over—because God forgives us over and over. It doesn’t matter how much we think someone who did bad things to us owes us. Forgiving those things will never come close to how much or how many times God forgives us.**