

THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER

Lesson Seven

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS

Burden to Impart:

In order to keep ourselves in a good relationship and fellowship with God we must keep our conscience clear of any offense (Acts 24:16). We do this by confessing our sins, failures, and trespasses to God. God will freely forgive us for all of our "debts" if we confess them to Him (1 John 1:9). However, if we are hard-hearted and unwilling to forgive others their offenses and "debts" toward us, neither will God forgive us our debts (Matt. 6:14-15, 18:35). If we harbor iniquity in our heart He will not even hear our prayer (Psa. 66:18).

Memory Verse: "And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

Facts to Teach:

1. As we seek to glorify our Father's Name, bring His kingdom to earth and do His will, we will discover that we have failures in our daily life. At times we commit sins against God and trespasses against others. For this reason the Lord taught us to pray concerning our "debts."
2. When we say or do things that are not proper toward others we offend them. They feel that we have mistreated them and that we "owe" them something. In this way we have a "debt" with them. We also fail the Lord in many ways and owe Him for our many "debts."
3. We build up many debts each day, some consciously and some unconsciously. It is like the dust on a window sill. The longer you wait to clean it, the dirtier it gets.
4. In order to keep a good relationship with our Father we need to confess our sins and failures to Him each day (1 John 1:9).
5. However, if we expect our Father to forgive our debts, we must be willing to forgive others their debts and offenses. Otherwise, our Father will not forgive us our debts (Matt. 6:15). By forgiving our debtors their debts we maintain peace between us and our brothers and sisters in God's family, and even with those who are not in the church. This is an exceedingly important lesson every believer must learn.
6. The Lord gave us an illustration about this in Matthew 18:21-35.



Reciprocity

Jesus taught about being forgiven of our sins and forgiving other people. Follow the instructions to decode the hidden message and find out what He had to say.

1. Cross out the vowels A and U

AAFOURUIFAYEUFOARGUIUVEAMUEAN

2. Cross out every third letter

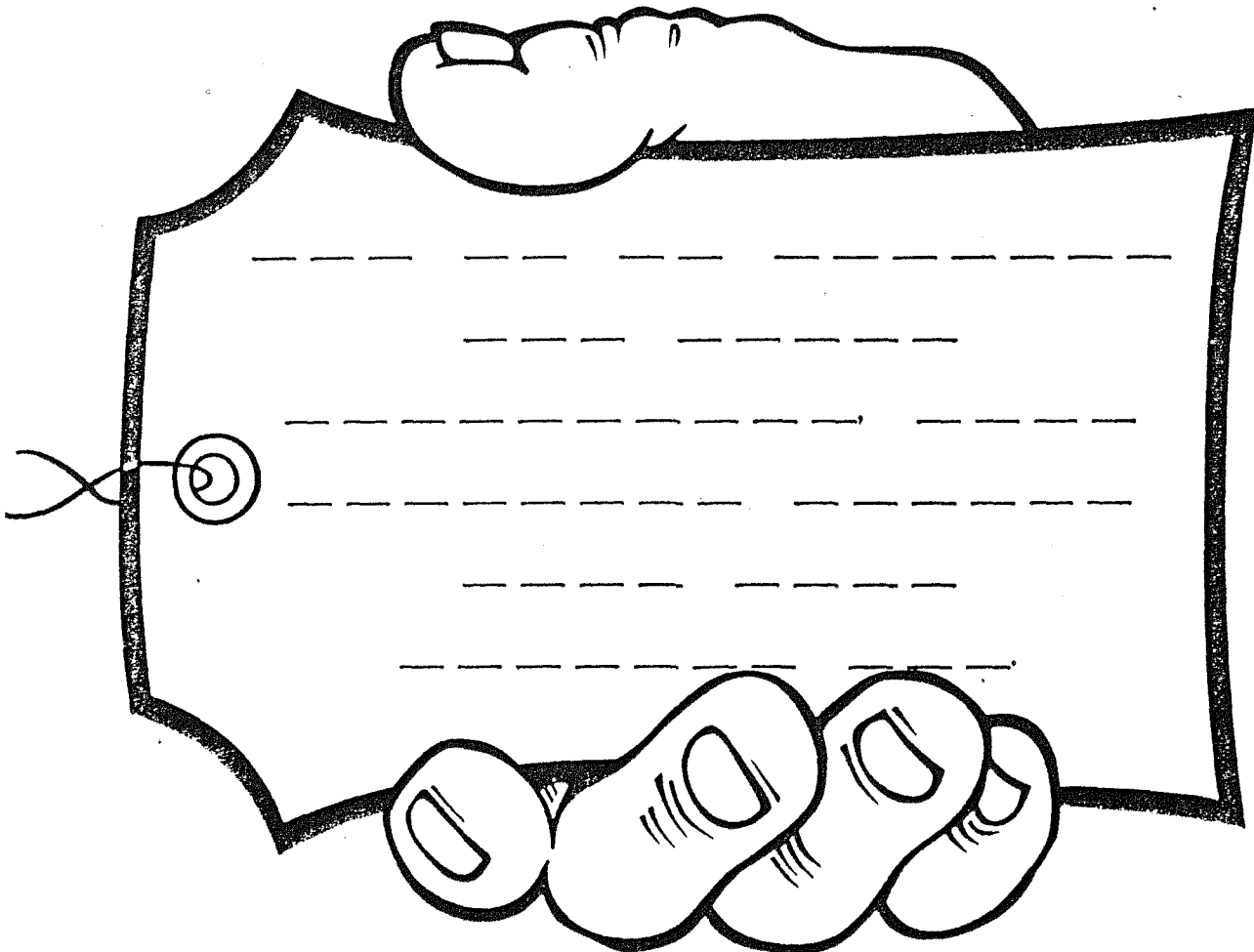
THSEINRTAREPSPSASHSEBS,

3. Cross out the letters S, I, and M

SYIOMUSRIHMESAIVMESNILMYSFIAMTSHIEMRS

4. Cross out all the numbers

3W32IL1LA4L7S8OF2OR6G9I2VEY5O8U.



Matthew 6:14

See answer on puzzle answer page 7.

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS...

Matthew 6:12 (KJV)



"Debts" mean sins, or things that we do that are wrong. When we do something wrong, we can talk to God. We can tell God we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us.

Why does the boy in the picture need forgiveness?

...AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.

Matthew 6:12 (KJV)



God wants us to forgive other people, too. Sometimes it's hard to show love and forgive,
but we can pray and ask God to help us.
When is a time you can forgive?