

Forgiveness—a Second Chance



How Many Second Chances Should I Give?

Key Faith Foundation: Seventy Times Seven Forgiveness

Key Scriptures: Matthew 18:21-35;
Luke 17:3-4; Colossians 3:13

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grapple schedule

5 minutes	grapple community
10-15 minutes	grapple games and clues
10 minutes	grapple time
15 minutes	grapple team time
10 minutes	grapple team reports
5 minutes	grapple prayer and dare

Supplies Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, a treat for each person in the class

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

CLUE 1 [623 points]: Find three examples of Jesus offering forgiveness in the Bible. (*Mark 2:5; Luke 7:48; Luke 23:34*)

CLUE 2 [444 points]: Discover some verses in the New Testament that talk about forgiveness. Write a definition of forgiveness based on these verses. (*Luke 17:4; Acts 26:18*)

CLUE 3 [315 points]: Find out a favorite parable or Bible passage for each person in your Grapple Team.

CLUE 4 [199 points]: Discover if anyone in our class has ever been given a second chance to try out for a sports team or school play.

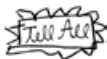
grapple time: 10 minutes

Have kids form two lines, facing each other, about 8 feet apart. Give everyone in one line a sheet of paper. Tell kids to wad the papers into balls. Tell kids in the other line to each make a circle—a “basket”—with their arms.

**ALLERGY
ALERT**
see the
Grapple
introduction

If you have a ball, toss it into the basket across from you on the count of three. I have a special treat for anyone who makes a basket on the first try. Ready? One, two, three!

Allow time. Give each person who made a basket on the first try a treat. Then have kids switch places and allow the other line to try to make the baskets.



Do you feel it's fair that you only got one try? Why or why not? How would you feel if I told you to try again...and again...and again...until you made it?



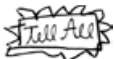
Tell about a time you got a second chance to get something right. What was that like?

Let kids in each line try to shoot the paper wads into the baskets until they make it, and then give each person a treat. You may need to have kids move closer together.

I'll read some statements out loud. Based on how you feel about each one, you'll stand in a certain area of the room.

Designate places for strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. Read the following statements. Once kids have picked a place to stand, have them talk with their group about why they chose the answer they did.

- **No matter what someone does wrong, he or she should always be given another chance.**
- **Some things people do are not forgivable.**
- **I have taken a second chance someone offered before.**
- **I think it's difficult to give someone a second chance.**



What did you talk about?

Depending on the situation, it can be really hard to forgive someone who's hurt us, especially if they do it again...and again...and again. How many second chances should we give? Let's grapple with that today!

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: *Throw It Away Prayers*

On a piece of paper, write about either someone you need to give a second chance to or something you'd like a second chance to do right. Then crumple up your paper and talk to God about the person or situation.

Option 2: *Pointing It Out Prayers*

Hold your hand as if you're pointing at someone you know who needs a second chance. Then notice the three fingers pointing back at you. For each of those fingers, think and pray about a way you can reach out to that person.

grapple dare

Jesus wants us to forgive each other not once, not twice, but an infinite number of times! He asks us to make a sacrifice that's small compared to the huge sacrifice he made for us. This week, I dare you to think of someone who's wronged you—someone you need to forgive. I dare you to ask God to help you forgive that person and let go of the anger and hurt. I dare you to give the person a second chance—because God gives you an infinite number of chances.

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.

grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.



Tell about a time you saw someone in real life get or give a second chance. What do you think you would have done in that situation? How many times do you think people can make the same mistakes or mess up before it's time to stop giving them second chances? Explain.

Read Matthew 18:21-35.



Work together to write a modern-day script of this story as if it happened at your school or in your family.

What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this parable? Give an example of a way this parable could apply to you.

Read Luke 17:3-4.

Do you think Jesus meant for people to count to seventy times seven and then stop forgiving after that? Why or why not?

Read Colossians 3:13.

Think about someone who's hurt you and you've had trouble forgiving. What do you think Jesus would have you do? How can you follow through on that this week?



Create a symbol using body language to represent seventy times seven. Whenever you have a tough time forgiving someone in the coming week, create the symbol again, or think about it, and remember how many times Jesus wants us to forgive others.

A decorative icon consisting of several overlapping, swirling lines.

grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Hot Potato

Toss a paper ball from one person to the next as quickly as possible while you share what you discovered.

Option 2: Stuff of Forgiveness

Find an item in the room that represents something you learned about second chances, and use it to share what you've discovered.