

# **UNFORGIVING SERVANT:**

## **Intent of the Session**

✓ *To help the participants to forgive others*

## **Target Audience**

Any group: Especially children, youngsters and youth..

Any occasion: Catechism Class, Moral Instruction, Recollection, Retreat, Camp, etc

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **Step 1. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant** (Mt. 18/21-35)

- ✓ Read the passage of Mt. 18/21-35
- ✓ Or ask the Participants to read it very carefully by themselves
- ✓ Or have it acted by some of them.

### **Step 2. Personal Work and Reflection.**

Write a few lines on the following questions:

- (1) Do you think that St. Peter was too generous by being ready to forgive the same person seven times? Why?
- (2) Would you be willing to forgive a person doing you wrong, seven times in a row if he asked you for pardon? Why? Have you ever forgiven anyone several times over?
- (3) What do people normally do with those who, time and again, keep insulting them or treating them badly?
- (4) What did Jesus want to teach Peter and us all, by means of the parable of the “Unforgiving Servant”?
- (5) How many times does God forgive us? Does God keep an account of the times we sin? Why?
- (6) If God had to forgive us only seven times, could we be his friends now? Could we ever hope to enter heaven? Why?
- (7) How many times will Jesus forgive us at Confession?
- (8) So, what have we to do, to be like Jesus, to be like our Heavenly Father?

### **Step 3. Discussion in smaller Groups**

If the number of participants is large, say more than 8 or 10, divide them into small groups of 5 or 6 each

Ask them to share and discuss their written replies on the questions given above.

### **Step 3. Personal Examination**

#### **A PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE FORM:** *(For all Participants)*

- ✓ Individually, think and reply in writing to the points below. -
- ✓ You will not be asked to share your personal reflections. They are meant only for your personal improvement.
- ✓ Keep them with you and take them home. Later on, read them, from time to time.
  - (1) Is there anyone, in your life, you did not forgive or you found it very hard to forgive? Explain.

- (2) Is there anything we can do to find it easier to forgive those who wrong us?  
Give some suggestions.
- (3) What do you intend doing after today's session to forgive others?
- (4) How do you feel whenever anyone, Mum, Dad, Husband, Wife, Teacher, Friend or someone else forgives you? Give some instances of your life.
- (5) How do you feel when others do not forgive you, take revenge or stop talking to you? Give instances.

**Step 4. (Optional) ROLE PLAY. Short Skits Inspired in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant** (Mt. 18/21-35)

- ✓ If you have time available, do not skip this step. It's a very effective means to drive home the main learning of today's sessions.
- ✓ Ask each small group to prepare a small skit inspired in the Parable of the "Unforgiving Servant" put in modern setting.
- ✓ Make it relevant to the audience. Instead of a King, it can be a Manager, a big Boss, the Police, the Judge, The School or College Principal, The Parents at home, a friend, etc.
- ✓ The thesis or argument of the skits will be: I have been forgiven so much and so many times by God and people, that I have to forgive others the wrongs they may have done to me. For example:
  - At Home: Forgiving your brother...sisters....the servants.
  - In School: Forgiving your classmates, your teachers etc.
  - On the playground: forgiving your team-mates, play-mates.
  - On In the Office...
- ✓ You need the following cast:
  - A Narrator
  - A Boss, an authority figure, Rich Man, a Parent, a Friend, etc..
  - The Unforgiving Servant
  - The Forgiven Servant
  - A few more characters to act as co-servants, coworkers or companions
- ✓ The skits will be presented to the entire house.
- ✓ After each presentation, a short evaluation and discussion may follow.
- ✓ The evaluation will be based not in its artistic value, but on its expressive and message value.

**Step 5. Closing Prayer: Points for Prayer:**

- ✓ Silent personal prayer.
- ✓ Read again the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
- ✓ Ask the Participants to read over and over again, all by themselves, the reflections they wrote in their personal questionnaire forms
- ✓ You may encourage them to spontaneously pray aloud.
- ✓ End by singing some hymns of your choice.