

Think About Points to Ponder and Words to Think About

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### The Love of God

Why did God send his son?  
(John 3:16) (1 John 4:9)

Does God want man to be lost?  
(2 Pet 3:9)

What will separate us from God's Love? Who's fault will it be if we are lost?  
(Romans 8:35-39) (2 Pet 1:10) (Revelation 2:10)

How do we show God we Love him?  
(John 14:15)

How do we show God's Love in us?  
(1 John 5:3) (1 John 2:5)

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# A Study of Matthew

Matthew 18:1-35

Lesson 16

**Assignment for next Week** — Read Matthew 19:1-30

**Memory Verse** — Matthew 18:3-4

Two of the greatest challenges in life can be having an attitude of forgiveness and not offending another to the detriment of their soul. In Matthew the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter Christ teaches a number of lessons on those subjects which we can learn from. At the beginning of the chapter Christ disciples come and ask him who is the greatest in the Kingdom. Christ replies that those who will become as little children will be the greatest in the Kingdom.

Since Christ said that those who would become as little Children could enter God's Kingdom there must be something important about the nature and attitude of a child. When you see children you see love, pureness, and humbleness. Those are things that we need to have in our life.

Christ knew that we could offend others and cautioned against those who would offend others. Many times choices in life will come to us and these choices will require that we consider how they may affect others. Paul emphasized so beautifully our situation in many things when he wrote, "Brothers you were called to freedom, only do not exercise your freedom for fleshly indulgence, but be enslaved to one another through love." Many things, in and of themselves, may not be wrong, but we need to consider others. We should not be seeking our own desires, but those of God. Our motto should be God first, others second, myself last.

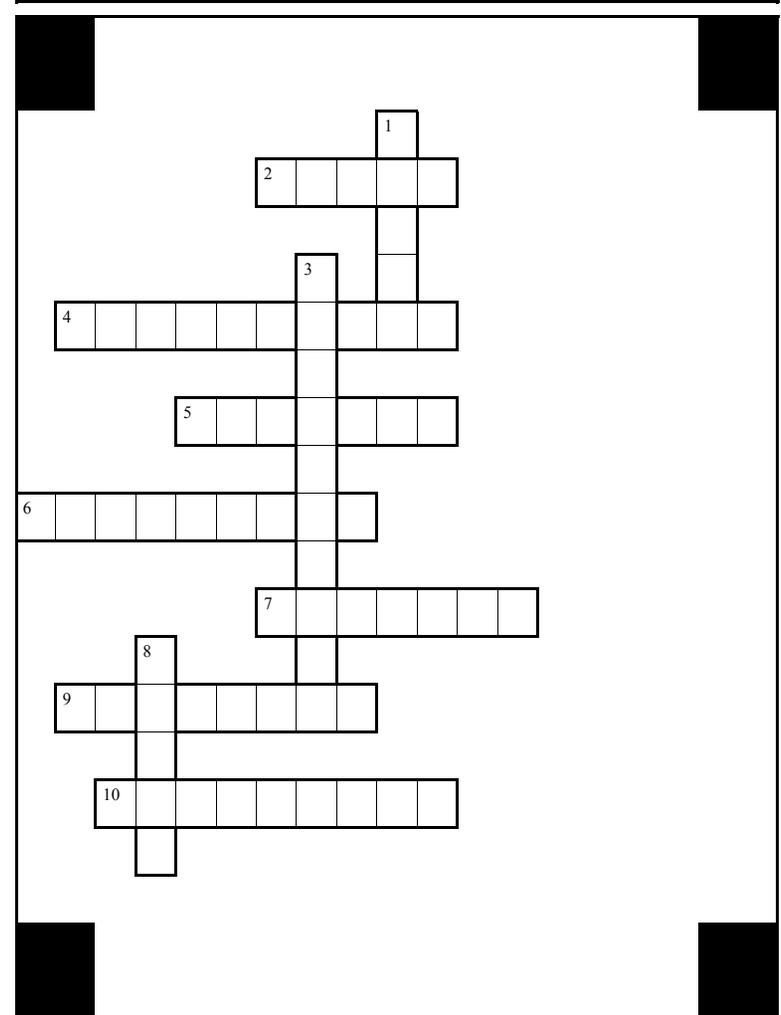
Another interesting lesson Christ teaches is that if

we know of something that is causing us to stumble we should get rid of it. Christ taught this by telling his disciples that if they had a hand or foot that was keeping them from eternal life they would be better off to cut it off and be maimed than to go to the lake of fire. Nothing is as valuable as eternal life. If we are having problems ridding our life of something the best thing we can do is work on our faith.

When we are offended by our brother Christ taught us how we should handle the situation. First we should go to him alone and explain the situation. We should not gossip about it or tell anyone else. We should go to him first because we could be wrong or could have misunderstood something. After we have talked to our brother alone, if we still have not resolved the situation, then we should take one or two others with us to seek to resolve the situation. If after that confrontation the one is found in the wrong and will not repent then we are told to take it before the church and we are not to associate with that person. One thing we need to constantly remember is that should always do every thing from an attitude of love lest we too sin in this process.

Finally, Christ teaches a great lesson on forgiveness. Christ tells of a man who owed his Lord over \$15 million. The lord requested that the man pay, but he could not. The Lord was going to have the man put in prison, but the man begged for mercy and his Lord forgave the debt. After being forgiven the debt the man went and found a fellow servant who owed him \$15 and demanded him to pay, when he could not pay he delivered him to prison. When the Lord of the servant who had been forgiven was told what the servant had done the Lord then turned the servant over to the tormentors. Christ promised that if we would not forgive others then our heavenly Father would not forgive us. We need to have an attitude of forgiveness. Also we

W Answer the Questions on Page  
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CROSS to fill in the Puzzle.  
R



# Cross Word Fun for Learning

## Across

2. Jesus told his disciples he who would humble himself like this would be the greatest in heaven's kingdom.(18:4)
4. What the servant had done to his fellow servant when he could not pay the the \$15 he owed.(18:30)
5. If something causes you to do this you should cut it off and get rid of it.(18:8)
6. If we cause someone to stumble it would be better that this be hung around are neck and we be cast into the sea.(18:6)
7. If we will do this for others our Heavenly father will do this for us also.(18:35)
9. Jesus disciples came and asked about who would be this in the Kingdom of heaven?(18:1)
10. There is much of this in heaven when someone who is lost comes back or is found.(18:12)

## Down

1. If our brother has done something against us the first thing we should do is go to him \_\_\_\_\_.(18:15)
3. When the Lord of servant, who forgave his servant the large sum, heard that the servant had not forgiven his fellow servant he turned him over to the \_\_\_\_\_(18:33)
8. Jesus told Peter that he should forgive his brother not just seven time but seventy times \_\_\_\_\_.(18:27)

Lesson 15 - Across - 2. Weather, 4. Mountain, 5. Capernaum, 6. Prophets, 8. Sign, 10. Fish - Down - 1. Leaven, 3. Kingdom, 5. Cross, 7. Soul, 9. Galilee

need to realize the greatness of God's love and forgiveness. God has forgiven us so much and what any man may do to us is so little in comparison as to what God has forgiven us.

As we go through life we will face many challenges. We will face decisions that could offend others and we need to be careful. We will need God's forgiveness. If we do not forgive others God will not forgive us. We need to keep in mind how great our sin was before God and how great his love is. Our sin before God was like the \$15 million that the servant owed. We too had a great debt we could not pay, but Christ has paid the debt if we will serve him by faith. We should find both joy in this as well as be humbled by this. Through Christ we see God's great love and this should cause us to want to serve Him even more. May we keep these things in mind and always keep a spirit of humbleness and forgiveness in our lives.

## Match the verse with the Event

### Scriptures from Matthew

- |             |             |           |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| a. 18:1     | b. 18:3-4   | c. 18:8-9 |
| d. 18:10-14 | e. 18:15-17 | f. 18:20  |
| g. 18:21-22 | h. 18:23-35 |           |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Christ told his disciples how to handle a situation where a brother has sinned against them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Christ told Peter that he should forgive his brother until seventy times seven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The disciples came and asked Jesus who was the greatest in the Kingdom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus told his disciples, if they had a hand or foot that was causing them to stumble they should cut it off because it was better to enter into life maimed than to be cast into the lake of fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jesus said where two or three have assembled in his name he is in the midst of them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Christ told his disciples the parable of the lost sheet and the ninety-nine that were safe to relate the joy there is when a lost one is found.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Christ told his disciples unless they become as little children they would not enter heaven's kingdom.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Christ told a parable about a man who owed a great sum of money to his Lord and could not repay it. The Lord forgave the debt, but then the man went and would not forgive a fellow servant a very minor debt. The Lord of this servant was angry and delivered this servant to the tormentors. Our Heavenly father will not forgive us if we do not forgive others.

## Questions

1. What question did the disciples come and ask Jesus about Heaven's Kingdom?
2. Why did Jesus tell his disciples they must become like little Children?
3. When one receives a little child in Christ name whom do they receive?
4. What would it be better that was done to one who causes a child to stumble?
5. What did Christ say that someone should do with a foot or hand that caused him to stumble? What lesson was Christ teaching here?
6. What was the lesson behind the parable of the ninety-nine sheep safe in the fold and the one lost sheep?
7. What should we do if our brother sins against us?
8. How many times should we forgive our brother?
9. How much did the servant owe his lord? What did the Lord do for this servant? What did this servant do after his Lord forgave him when one of his fellow servants could not repay a debt he owed? What did the servant's Lord do? What is the lesson taught by this parable?