

FORGIVE FROM YOUR HEART

VISUAL AIDS

- > On individual cards, the letters of **F O R G I V E N E S S**. (If you have a large group, make several sets.)
- > Heart shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:
Alleluia, alleluia!
**Forgive us
as we forgive others.**
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News
given to us by Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord.

Peter asked Jesus, "Suppose someone does me wrong, how often must I forgive them?" Jesus answered with this story: "There once was a rich king, who decided to call in all the money owed to him. One man owed thousands of pounds. He couldn't possibly pay back, so the king ordered that the man be sold as a slave, and his wife and children too, and everything he owned, until the debt was paid. The

DISCUSSION

What happened in the story? Have the children retell the story in their own words.

What did Peter want to know?

Do we ever behave like anyone in the story?

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children mime the Gospel story.
- > Give out the heart shape cut-outs.
- > The children write a prayer thanking God for forgiving them.
- > The children write how they will

SHARING

Give out the letters and challenge the children to find the word. When they have found the word, ask them what it means.

Encourage them to define it by giving examples of forgiving and being forgiven.

When, and why, is it hard to forgive?

man threw himself at the king's feet, "Give me time", he pleaded, "and I'll pay back every penny I owe." The king had pity, cancelled the whole debt, and let the man go free. On his way home the man met a friend who owed him about a pound. He grabbed the man by the throat, and demanded "Pay me back the money you owe!" "Give me time", his friend pleaded. But the man wouldn't listen, and had

his friend thrown into prison. When the king heard this, he was very upset and sent for the man. "You wicked man! When you asked for mercy, I cancelled your debt - but you had no pity." And the king had the man thrown into prison. So', said Jesus, 'God will deal with anyone who does not forgive from the heart.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

be forgiving, who they will forgive, in the week ahead.

