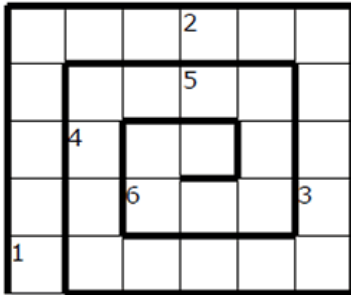


Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Look at the numbered clues, determine the correct word, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.



WELCOME

Forgiving others as God forgives us
(Matthew 18:21-22)

Keep on Forgiving

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. A male who has the same parents as another person | 4. To break God's law |
| 2. The number equal to 4 + 3 | 5. One of Jesus' disciples |
| 3. To excuse someone for an offense | 6. To seek an answer to a question |

ASK	SEVEN	BROTHER
PETER	SIN	FORGIVE



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Do you like sports? What do you think is the most popular sport in the world? Most articles that I have read seem to agree that football is the most popular sport in the world. If you are playing or watching football, it is very important to know and follow the rules. How many know what a yellow card is? Even if you have never seen a football game, you could probably figure out that it is called a yellow card because it is yellow! In a football game, the referee holds up a yellow card to warn a player for a dangerous or unsportsmanlike play. For example, if a player tries to kick the ball out of the goalie's hands, that is dangerous. The goalie could be hurt, so the referee shows the player a yellow card as a warning not to do it again. If that player makes another dangerous play, the referee shows him the yellow card again, but then he would show him another card, a red card. Do you know what it means? The player is out of the game! That is pretty rough punishment, isn't it? The sport of football isn't very forgiving, is it?

How many times do you think a person should be forgiven for doing something wrong? Once? Twice? Three times? If you were to ask Jesus how many times you should forgive someone, what do you think he would say? Well, we don't have to guess, because the Bible gives us the answer.

One day, Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Should I forgive him seven times?" I imagine that Peter thought he was being pretty generous to forgive someone seven times. I don't know about you, but I think I agree with Peter. To forgive someone seven times is be pretty generous. Guess what? Jesus didn't agree.

Jesus answered Peter, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven."

Wow! Seventy times seven! That's four hundred and ninety times. I think that before I got to four hundred and ninety I would lose count. You know, I think that is probably what Jesus was trying to get Peter to understand and he wants us to understand it too. We shouldn't worry about keeping count of how many times we have forgiven someone -- we should just keep on forgiving. Isn't that what God does? He doesn't keep count of how many times he has forgiven us. He just keeps on forgiving.

Let's Pray: Dear Father, we are thankful that you love us and forgive us without keeping count. Help us to love and forgive others as you have forgiven us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



"Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me."