

Play: Top Trumps

The aim of Top Trumps is to beat the card of your opponent by choosing a category with a high value. Play together as a family with a pack of Top Trumps cards. If you wanted to, you could have all the winners play each other to get a champion.

Play: Pop me

Blow up several balloons to a different degree. The smallest should only just be inflated with one small breath whilst the biggest should be blown to within seconds of going bang. Challenge your family to burst all of their balloons just by treading on them and see who can burst all their balloons first. Which balloon was the easiest to pop? Which was hardest? Why do they think this was?

Balloons can be like people. We can be humble or we can be puffed full of our own importance. Humble people find it easy to forgive people for things that they do wrong but people who are self-important can find it very hard. Every time you refuse to forgive someone it is as if you blow a breath of air into a balloon: the more air you blow into the balloon the harder it becomes – and hard balloons are easy to break! If you forgive people easily, you will be softer and will not be damaged so easily, because you will have more friends to help you in bad times. It is important to practise forgiveness because that keeps us “soft” and strong, and open to God.

Watch: The unforgiving servant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED3fzkS-bhA>

Read: Story of unforgiving servant

“Mike had problems with money. He spent too much of it, and he was terribly, terribly in debt. He owed the king ten thousand dollars. The king asked Mike to pay what he owed. Mike had to say that he couldn't pay it – he had no savings and he didn't earn enough to be able to pay anything back. The King said that Mike and his family must be sold as slaves. The money that people spent to buy them would be given to the king. Mike was horrified. He threw himself onto the floor and begged and begged the king to let him off the debt! Amazingly the King felt sorry for Mike and was very lenient. He said that Mike would be let off the whole debt. Mike was jubilant! He danced out of the King's palace feeling like a new man. As he danced down the road Mike saw Paul. Paul owed Mike a few pounds. Mike decided that he would make the day even better by getting that money back!

“Paul – have you got that money you owe me?” Mike asked. “Sorry, Mike, no, I haven't got it this week,” Paul answered. “Can I give it to you next month?” Mike lost his temper. He grabbed Paul by the throat, “Pay me what you owe me or else!” he cried. Paul begged for mercy, but Mike was adamant. He had Paul thrown into prison because he didn't have the money. Some of the men of the town were horrified with Mike's actions. They went to the King and told him that Mike had put Paul into prison. The King sent for Mike. “You are a wicked man Mike. You were let off a debt of ten thousand pounds – surely you could have let Paul off the few pounds he owed you? Why did you have to be so unforgiving? Because you could not forgive Paul, I am going to do the same to you – you'll go into prison too until all your debts are paid. Take him away!” And so Mike was taken out of the palace and thrown into prison after all.

- How do you think Mike felt?
- Why would Mike not forgive Paul?
- Do you think he should have forgiven Paul? Why?
- How do you think God feels when we don't forgive people?

We must forgive people if we want to be forgiven in our turn – it is important!

Pray:

Write down the name of someone you need to forgive. Have a time of silent prayer while you play some instrumental praise music and encourage and ask God to help you soften your heart and to forgive the person who has wronged you. Then rip up your piece of paper and put it in the bin. Sing this song together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbfCX9BFwk4&list=PLxmahKCc7tmVMGNslrVRmfqHGwFdVJtAW&index=4>