

Forgiving Brings Relief and Happiness
About 5 minutes, applies Eph. 4:32; 6:1–4

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is simply to inform, not to perform*)

Denise

Marcie

Prompter Shout a brief line and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Denise Listen, Marcie, you should not date that boy;
he's immature and an unbeliever. Leave him!

Marcie But I don't want to hurt him, Denise.

Denise You're inviting trouble, Marcie. God forbids believers
to bind themselves together with unbelievers.

Marcie Well, okay. I will drop him.
I want a marriage and family like yours.
Your home is so peaceful, Denise!
In my house, all we do is quarrel.

Prompter & Echoes Squabble, squabble!

Denise Marcie, Jesus said to be peacemakers and seek reconciliation.
I pray for you, that you'll forgive again and again
as Jesus said to do,

Prompter & Echoes Seventy times seven!

Marcie I try to forgive my mom, but I cannot!
She so selfish! I cannot even hold a conversation with her;
she only nags me, Denise. I cannot do anything to suit her.
And she...

Denise (*Interrupt*) Whoa! Enough!
Marcie, Jesus forgave you, so you must forgive others.
Confess to your mom that you have wronged her,
and ask her forgiveness.

Prompter & Echoes Precious forgiveness!

Marcie Ask my mom to forgive me?
You must be kidding, Denise!
I'm the one that's been hurt!
My mom should ask for my forgiveness.

Denise No, Marcie. It does not work that way.
Without Jesus, she will never initiate heartfelt reconciliation.
You must do it. Break the endless cycle of hurting and getting even.

Marcie But how?

Denise Confess to her your wrongs and ask her to forgive you.

- Marcie But mom's so selfish!
She deliberately plans stuff for me that spoils my plans, and...
- Denise Stop, Marcie! You only hurt yourself
to keep going over all that strife.
Don't let it fester! Now, tell me honestly,
have you done things to hurt your mom?
- Marcie Yeah, but she deserved it.
She crabs at me, so I sass back.
I cannot help it, Denise.
- Denise Yes, you can, Marcie!
Let God's Holy Spirit fill your heart with love for your mom.
- Prompter & Echoes Love your mom!
- Marcie (*Groan*) Oh! Please pray for me, Denise.
- Denise God will help you, Marcie, just as he helped me.
Otherwise, round and round goes the endless cycle!
She hurts you, and you hurt her.
Get off the devil's merry-go-round!
- Denise Jesus said if two or three agree on anything in his name
then it will be bound in heaven. Let us agree now
that by God's grace you will forgive your mom.
- Marcie ' Oh! Dear Jesus, I agree with Denise, to receive your help
to forgive my mom!
- Prompter & Echoes Amen!
- Marcie I will confess to mom the bad stuff I have done to her,
and ask her forgiveness. Oh! I feel better already!
Oh, thank you, Denise; and thank you, Lord Jesus!
- Prompter & Echoes Thank you, Lord!
- Denise A week goes by and I meet again with Marcie.
Hear what she has to say.
- Marcie I begged mom to forgive me for sassing and stuff.
She looked at me, shocked.
I told her I had found Jesus.
She cried, and asked me to forgive her, too.
We hugged, and tears flowed.
Mom knows Jesus now, too!
- Prompter & Echoes Victory and joy!