

## **Topic: God is Forbearing (Lesson 25)**

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

### **Elementary:**

Verse: "Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5).

Focus: To be forbearing means to be patient when someone or something may upset us. God is forbearing and we should be forbearing with others.

Practical Application: At school you might be paired with someone to do an art project. That person may not be very good at drawing or cutting out shapes. Someone with forbearance would not get upset with him or her for coloring outside the lines or cutting things out crookedly, but would understand that the person needs time to learn how to color within the lines or cut out shapes correctly.

### **Intermediate:**

Verse: "Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God's kindness is leading you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4).

Focus: Forbearance means to bear with others, to be patient with others, and to help others learn even when it seems it is something they should know or know how to do.

Practical Application: When a new child who has never played soccer or baseball joins a team, the other team members must show forbearance to the new child. They should not expect that he or she knows how to play the game or can learn how to play in one day. A forbearing person would help the other person learn how to play and do so without complaining.

### **Advanced:**

Verse: "Whom God set forth as a propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God passed over the sins that had previously occurred" (Romans 3:25).

Focus: Forbearance means to be considerate of others and to not put a demand on others even if they are at fault. For over 6,000 years, God has shown forbearance towards man. He has been full of understanding about man's condition, limitation, and need.

Practical Application: Consider telling the story in Matthew 18:23-31. Consider also the following example: Suppose that one day, you make a mistake which causes \$100,000 in damage to someone's house. Would you have the money to fix it? The person whose house was damaged has the right to request that you pay for the damage right away. If not, he could take you to court and ask that you be put in jail. To do this would not be forbearing. However, God knows that man could not pay his debt for sin and has shown forbearance to sinful man. God even sent His Son to die for our sins to pay the debt we could not pay.