

Ages 3-6

The Lord Forgives

Materials Needed

large piece of paper or several smaller pieces to attach together; picture of *The Lord* p. 2; crayons or markers; washable, water-base yellow paint; plate or tray and brush for mixing paint
optional: smocks

Prepare in Advance

Mix yellow paint to good finger-painting consistency. If needed, assemble smaller pieces of paper into a mural-sized sheet. Glue the picture of *The Lord* in the middle of the mural paper.

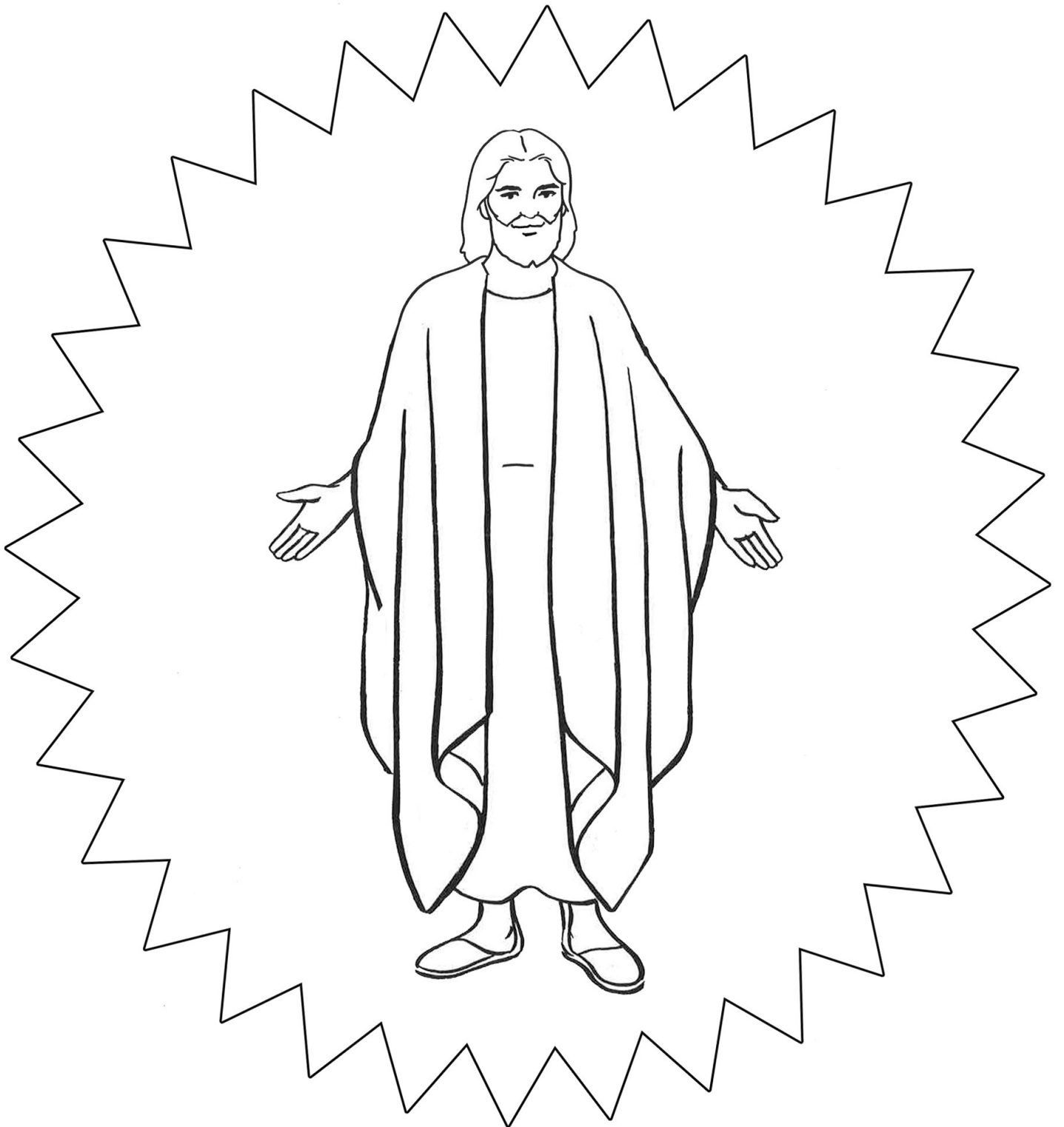
New Church Concept Forgiveness

The Lord forgives everyone's sins. He does not accuse us or keep score. However, He cannot take our sins away except by the laws of His divine providence; for when Peter asked Him how many times he should forgive someone who had sinned against him, whether seven was enough, He said that Peter should forgive not seven times but seventy times seven times. What does this tell us about the Lord, who is mercy itself? *Divine Providence* 280

Children will create a mural of the Lord's great love radiating out to all and abundantly forgiving the mistakes and bad choices we make.



1. Have you ever made a mistake? Mistakes are things we don't mean to do, but that happen. For instance, if you run fast, you might bump into someone and even knock someone down so they get hurt. What could you say if you made a mistake like that?
2. Everyone makes mistakes. Making mistakes can be upsetting and embarrassing. If we make a mistake, we might feel better if the person who gets hurt says, "I forgive you." Have you ever said, "I forgive you?" Has anyone ever said, "I forgive you" to you? What does "I forgive you" mean?
3. When the Lord was on earth He told a story about a servant who owed his master lots of money. It was so much money, he could never pay it back. He and his family would become slaves. That would have been terrible, wouldn't it! But what did the Master do? He forgave the debt—the man no longer owed money. He could go free. How do you think the servant felt then?
4. What did the servant do when he remembered that another servant owed him a little money? Did he forgive the other servant? No! He said he would have to pay, or be thrown in prison! The Lord used this story to teach that we should forgive mistakes—just as He always forgives our mistakes.
5. Hold up both hands and wiggle your fingers in the air. We each have ten fingers. When we all wiggle our fingers there are ___ fingers! That's a lot of fingers. The Lord said we are forgive so many times we could hardly count them—70 x 7, or 490 times! That's a lot of fingers!
6. We are going to make a mural showing how many times we are to forgive. Invite the children to color the picture of the Lord. Place the mural in the middle of the group. Children can all color at once or take turns. *Optional*: Add glue and sprinkle glitter over the picture.
7. In heaven the angels see the Lord in the sun. We are going to make a beautiful sun around the Lord. We will use our fingertips to make little dots of love and light all around Him. Have children dip their fingertips in yellow paint and make dots radiating around the Lord—like sun rays, reaching out to warm us and light our way. With each dot the Lord is saying, "I forgive you." Encourage children to make lots of dots. There's no need to count! The Lord will always forgive.



The Lord