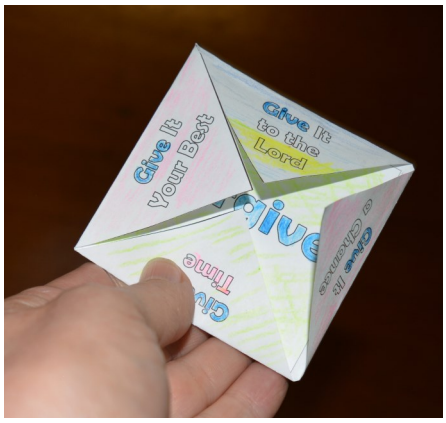
Four Gives to Forgive



Create a folding square that can fit in a pocket to help students remember to forgive others.

1. During the Lord's life on earth, the disciple Peter once asked Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?". The Lord responded, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." (See Matthew 18:21-22.) That's a lot of times that the Lord asks us to forgive! The New Church teaches us one additional truth about what the Lord said. In the Word, whenever the number 7 is mentioned, it means completeness or wholeness. So really, 70 x 7 means that we should *always* forgive others!
2. But sometimes it is very hard to forgive someone who hurts us. It can be especially hard if the other person doesn't say they are sorry. We're going to talk about four tools that can help us to forgive others when it is difficult. These are four things we can "give" in order to help us to "forgive".
3. Hand out the *Four Gives Folding Square* (p. 2) to students and discuss the Four "Gives" at the top of the page. Ask students what they think each statement means. Here are some ideas:
    - Give it a chance—start by acknowledging that it is possible to forgive, but it will take hard work
    - Give it time—it may take time to be able to forgive, and that's OK if you keep working at it
    - Give it your best—genuinely try to forgive the person, looking for understanding for why he or she may have acted in that way
    - Give it to the Lord—the Lord has the power to change your heart; ask for His help to change your feelings and find forgiveness
4. Have students put together their own *Four Gives to Forgive square* to help remember these tools. You might want to carry the square in your pocket or wallet to help you when you are having trouble forgiving.
5. Forgiving someone doesn't mean that you are saying what they did is OK. It doesn't mean that you give that person the chance to hurt you again. It does mean remembering that only the Lord can know what truly motivates a person and only He can judge their heart. The Lord will always forgive us. He wants us to try to forgive other people too.

Materials Needed

copy of the *Four Gives Folding Square* p. 2 for each student; scissors; markers, colored pencils or fancy pens

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

New Church Concept The Number Seven

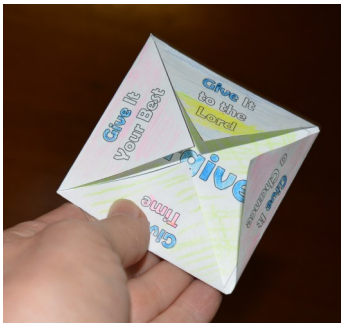
All numbers in the Word signify spiritual things. Seven signifies all and what is full and complete. See *Apocalypse Explained* 257

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Four Gives Folding Square

Directions:

1. Cut out the square with the dark center.
2. Place the square face down on the table.
3. Fold the four corners up to form a square on top showing the four triangles with writing.
4. Choose one of the smaller squares to cut out and glue to the inside of your folded square—underneath the four triangles.
5. Decorate your square.



Four Gives to Forgive:

- Give it a chance.
- Give it time.
- Give it your best.
- Give it to the Lord.

Give It Time

Give It your Best

Four Gives to Forgive

Give It a Chance

Give It to the Lord

Forgive

Forgive