

# Introduction Sri Lanka

Pastor Cedric Rodrigo and his wife, Sharlini returned to Sri Lanka after studying at Kingsley Bible College in Melbourne, Australia. They had two little boys; Ashan was almost 3 and Shehan was 1 ½ years old. That was 18 years ago. Then they had two more boys Chrihsan and Yohan. Along with their children they started a little Bible study in the home of Denis and Dulan (they were 9 and 7). That is how the Wesleyan Church in Sri Lanka was started. Now there are 150 people in that church and 4 more churches around the country.

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Each year 100 elephants are decorated for the annual elephant pageant

Key Sports  
Cricket  
Volleyball

Popular fruits—  
clockwise  
Rambuttan  
Wood Apple  
Durian  
Jackfruit



Rupee  
120 rupees =  
\$1 Dollar

# Sri Lanka

Religion:  
Buddhism  
Islam  
Hinduism  
Christianity



Formerly Called Ceylon



Language—Tami l , Si nhal ese, Engli sh

Common Food  
Top to bottom  
Pittu  
Hoppers  
Sambol  
Roti  
Rice and Curry



National  
Flower—Blue Lily  
Bird—Jungle Fowl



**Holidays**  
Full Moon Days—one each month  
Deepavali—November 13 lights festival  
Eid—August 19 end of Ramadan  
Vesak—full moon day of May Buddha's Birthday  
Tamil Thai Pongal harvest festival  
Easter—Varies  
Christmas—December 25



Cinnamon originated in Sri Lanka

Produces best tea in the world



# Children's Story

## Mimasha and Saraya

Nimasha and Saraya were in the same third grade class. They never got along. It was as if they were enemies for life. Saraya felt that Nimasha just irritated the life out of her. They would constantly have arguments and Saraya caught her spreading ridiculous stories about her even when she had nothing to do with her. The situation got so bad that one day it all erupted in a physical fight. For five years they constantly clashed. Nimasha had her group of friends and Saraya had her own group. The whole school knew that they did not get along and people loved adding fuel to the fire. It would always start with a, "do you know what she said about you?" tone and go on from there.

Things were getting quite bad between them when Saraya started having dreams of them being friends. At that time Saraya thought they were nightmares and would wake up very uneasy. These dreams went on for months and Saraya began to think of her as a friend in her mind. Her attitude towards Nimasha began to change and when she reacted badly Saraya ignored it and treated her nicely. Saraya cannot recall ever wanting to be nice to Nimasha, but she recalls that something inside her began to change.

Slowly the two girls began talking and they were able to sit and clear up a lot of the rumors and stories people were telling about them. Once those were addressed, a friendship began to blossom. Two years later Saraya invited Nimasha to come to church with her. Nimasha accepted God into her life. Saraya realized that Nimasha had a lot of unresolved issues to deal with and that the time they became friends was the time she really needed someone. She also needed more than just a friend, she needed God.

Today Nimasha and Saraya are the best of friends. They team teach a Bible Study together. Saraya does the study and Nimasha leads the group in worship. They both know that if ever one of them is in need, the other will be there. They admit that they still fight and things are not always perfect between them but they truly love one another; like sisters. God showed them what real friendship was all about. Their friendship has lasted over ten years now and their relationship has only gotten stronger.

# Memory Activity

Matt 6:14-15

14 " For if you forgive others for their wrongs, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your wrongs

Activity—the goal is to place the memory cards in order.

1. Tie a rope between two chairs.
2. Then cut out the memory verse cards on pages 128-130 of the resource section.
3. Fold the pieces in half and hang them on the string in random order so that the words are visible to the group.
4. Have each child take a turn and move one card to try and put them in order. After each card is moved have the entire group read the cards.
5. Ask them if the verse is in the correct order. If not, then have another child move a card.
6. Continue moving cards one at a time until the children agree that the cards are in order.
7. When you have completed this process then mix the cards up and ask each child if they can put them in order and say the verse. You could give a prize to the ones who can do this.



# Bible Lesson

## Matt 6:14-15

Has anyone done something that hurt you?  
Did anyone make up a story about you that was not true?

How did that make you feel?  
Did you feel angry?  
Did you feel mad?

Most of the time, when someone does something nasty, we get very angry, don't we? We want to do something even worse than that to hurt that person. Sometimes people say things that are hurtful. Again we get angry.

Jesus knew exactly how that feels. So he talked to his best friends about this problem.

He said, If you forgive your friends when they do something wrong to you, then your heavenly father will forgive you when you do something wrong. If you don't forgive your friend when he/she does something wrong, then God will not forgive you when you are in need of forgiveness.

Do you know what forgiving means? (Allow the children to answer.) Forgiving is the most loving thing you can do for yourself. When we get angry and stay angry for a long time, it makes us really dirty inside. But if we say to ourselves, "what he did is not nice. It hurt me. But I am not going be angry with him anymore. That is what little Saraya did in our story. That is what forgiveness is all about. When we forgive, we become all clean inside.

Sometimes we do wrong things and when that happens we want God to forgive us, don't we? God will not be able to forgive us if we are dirty inside. So you see it is a good thing to forgive.

## Who is your friend?

Children sit in a circle. One child goes and asks one of those who sit in the circle, "Am I your friend?" If that person says "yes" then you shake hands and go to another person. You ask the same question. If they say, "No" you ask, "then, who is your friend?" That person can say something like, "All those who are wearing red." Then all those who are wearing red have to get up and find a different chair. In the meantime, the one who was asking the questions **steals someone's chair and sits down.** This leaves one player without a chair. Then that person becomes the one begging for a friend.

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# Time for Prayer

- In Sri Lanka there are two groups of people called the Sinhalese and the Tamil. For 30 years these two groups fought with each other. Both groups did bad things. Now the war is over, but there are a lot of people who are very angry. Pray that people will hear what Jesus taught about forgiveness and begin to forgive.
- Pray for little children who lost their fathers and mothers (because of the war) that they will be adopted into loving families.
- Pray for families who have become very poor because of the war, so that their fathers will find work, so they can have food to eat.
- Pray for little Singithi(3) and her older brother (14). They are both very angry because their father is not taking care of them and their mother went to another country. Pray that their father will come home and take care of them and be a family.
- Pray for little Malkanthi whose mommy and daddy are both sick. They cannot hear or talk. Malkanthi is now 9 years old. Her father left her and went away. Malkanthi needs to learn how to talk with her mother using her hands. Please pray that they will learn to talk and get to know each other and learn to love each other.

# Activity

## C t i v i t y

Make a forgiving ring

You need:

1 empty roll of toilet paper

Markers

Red, yellow and white yarn

What you need to do:

Decorate the toilet paper roll any way you like with markers.

Make several strands of yarn from all three colors. These will be placed on your forgiving ring.

When someone does something bad to you, you tie a red yarn or ribbon around the forgiving ring you decorated. When you are ready to forgive that person you braid a yellow yarn or ribbon with the red yarn and tie it again around the forgiving ring. Then when you have prayed and asked Jesus to help you forgive that person and when you feel that you can actually be friends again, then you take the white yarn and make a three strand braid. First you put a knot to hold the three yarns together. Then you braid it and put another knot in the end. Now you give it to the friend you have forgiven as a gift and a sign of forgiveness.