

Tony Weekly is a truck driver. In July 2016, while driving through Nebraska, he wasn't paying attention and didn't slow down in a construction zone. Tony crashed his truck into a car carrying the Pals family—a dad and mom and three young children. All five of the Palses were killed in the accident. Last month, when Tony went to court for his careless driving, Mr. Pals's father asked the judge to show mercy, saying, "Everybody makes mistakes, and he didn't start out that day planning on killing our children." Then Mr. Pals's father said to Tony, "I know how much God has forgiven me. How can I not forgive you?" Because of the Pals family's request for grace, Tony was sentenced to only six months in prison, instead of the two to three years originally requested by the prosecutor.

## Think About It . . .

- How hard do you think it was for Mr. Pals's father and the rest of his family to forgive Tony for his carelessness?
- When has it been hard for you to forgive someone?

# THE BEAT

August 26, 2018  
Lesson 13



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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## Forgive-O-Meter

Draw a large circle on the board. Around the perimeter of the circle, write the numbers 1 to 10. Inside the circle, draw an arrow that is pointing to the number 1. Have students pair up. Partners are to come up with one situation in which they either need someone to forgive them or they are offering forgiveness to another person. After a few minutes, have each pair act out or describe its forgiveness situation. Ask the rest of the class to rank the situation from 1 to 10, 1 being the easiest to forgive and 10 being the hardest to forgive. Erase and redraw the arrow as needed. Discuss why forgiveness might be easy or hard in each situation. SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word and see what it says about forgiveness.**

How will you prepare for a time when you need to forgive God's way?