

## FORGIVE

Matthew 18:21-35

### MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. WHY WE NEED TO FORGIVE
2. WHAT IT MEANS TO FORGIVE
  - Having compassion
  - Forgiving the debt
  - Releasing the offender
3. WHERE THE STRENGTH TO FORGIVE COMES FROM

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
3. Forgiveness is so important because if we don't get bitterness out of our lives it will distort and destroy our lives. However, bitterness is described in Hebrews 12:15 as a "root" which means it is hard to deal with and hard to see. How do we detect and deal with our bitterness?
4. The three elements of what it means to forgive that we see in Matthew 18 are **1) Having Compassion 2) Forgiving the debt and 3) Releasing the offender**. Discuss each of these three elements as a group. What do they mean? How do we do them? Which is hardest for you to understand? Which is most difficult for you to do?
5. What is the difference between justice and vengeance? Is it possible to forgive and yet still seek justice? What does it look like to forgive someone who continues to sin against you? How should we relate to a person like that?
6. Who do you need to forgive right now? What is making it hard for you to forgive?
7. What has been your experience of God's forgiveness? How has that impacted the way you forgive others?

**A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU:** In order for us to forgive and to stop acting like kings, we must see the Ultimate King becoming a servant for us in order to pay our debt. We can forgive much because we've been forgiven much.