



MAY 5, 2024
UNPRECEDENTED FORGIVENESS
MATTHEW 18:21-35

Introduction

Big Idea: God's people are a forgiving people

We forgive because God forgave us

We forgive because it is our duty as His people to imitate Him

We forgive because it brings about God's Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven

Conclusion

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who is **following** Jesus, is being **changed** by Jesus, and is **committed** to the **mission** of Jesus. (Matthew 4:19)*

HARBOR OF HOPE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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Reflection Questions for Groups or Individuals:

1. Have you ever seen the transformative power of forgiveness at work in your life or in the life of someone else? Share a story that was inspiring or impactful to you.
2. We said that "God's people are a forgiving people." How does this idea of forgiveness being part of your identity as a child of God impact the way you think about forgiveness?
3. Have you ever done a practice of regular confession or a "Daily Examen"? (you can do a quick google search for these things and find some examples) How does taking time to be aware of your sin and God's forgiveness of you impact your desire to forgive others?
4. We said that it is our duty as God's people to forgive how He forgives. Share some stories from Scripture or your own life about God's forgiveness. How do they impact your understanding of how you are to imitate Him?
5. We said that forgiveness is revolutionary, that it is a way that we help God's Kingdom break into our world. Have you ever witnessed or experienced an act of forgiveness that was revolutionary like this?
6. What is God saying to you about your practice of forgiving others? Is there anyone in your life God is asking you to forgive?
7. Share with each other some barriers you have to forgiving others in your life. Close with a time of confession and prayer for each other about what God is bringing up in your group. Ask for His help to be people who are marked by forgiveness towards others.

Discovery Bible Study Method for Groups or Individuals

(for more information on this method of Bible study- see <https://www.dbsguide.org/>)

1. Talk: To begin the study, each person answers these questions:

- What are you thankful for?
- What is causing you stress?
- Who needs our help? How can this group help them?

2. Look Back (session 2+)

- Retell story from the previous meeting.
- What did you do differently because of this story?
- Who did you tell and what was the reaction?

3. Read & Re-tell

- One person reads the Bible passage out loud, and the rest follow along.
- Someone else retells the passage by memory, if possible. Others can fill in what is missing.

4. Look

- Read the passage again.
- Discuss what this passage says about God, Jesus or his plan.

5. Look again

- Read the passage once more
- Discuss what this passage says about humans
- Discuss what this passage says about being a disciple of Jesus

6. Inside me

- According to this study, what am I doing well?
- What do I need to change?

7. Who else?

- Who needs to hear this story?
- How can I tell them?
- Who can I invite to study the Bible?

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