

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Parable (Stories of Grace)

Week of March 30, 2019

### Week 5: Forgiving by Grace (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

#### **Matthew 18:23-35**

Sin abounds in our world and it is wreaking havoc in our relationships. The only antidote is forgiveness. Jesus reveals the key to forgiving others in His parable entitled "The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant."

**Kicking it off:** Jeff opened his sermon by sharing of the time that he destroyed the ceiling fan in his roommate's house. Can you think of a time that you destroyed someone's personal property and needed forgiveness? If so, share about it.

#### **Discussion:**

1. Reread *Matthew 18:24-27* A man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

What does this parable tell us of God's forgiveness in our lives?

2. Reread *Matthew 18:32-33* Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"

Unfortunately, we are often like this "wicked servant." Why do Christians, who are forgiven of much, struggle to forgive others of little?

3. How can we stay emotionally connected to the great forgiveness given to us through Christ?
4. Reread Jesus' wise council found in *Luke 17:3* "If your brother or sister sins against you, *rebuke* them; and if they *repent*, *forgive* them."

Name the three steps in the process of relational restoration found in this verse. Which of these three steps do you find most difficult? Why?

5. The four steps of whole-hearted repentance are: a) Confess, b) Apologize, c) Turn, d) Ask (for forgiveness)

Clarify what is involved in each of these steps of repentance. Why are each important?

6. Reread *Romans 12:18* If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Is there someone you are at odds with? Have you done all that you could to bring peace?

7. Are there any specific steps that you feel called to make as a result of this study?

**Wrapping It Up:** Pray for the courage, grace and wisdom needed to fight for reconciliation in strained relationships of group members.