

Discovery Group - Community Foundations

(6) *Forgive*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: **Matthew 18:21-35**

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn from the passage about forgiveness?
- How could a lack of awareness of your own sin make it more difficult to forgive others?
- How can you be appropriately aware of your sin while not living under condemnation and guilt?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Matthew 6:9-15

Mark 11:20-25

Luke 17:1-10

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Colossians 3:12-15

Forgive

Some of Jesus' most challenging teachings have to do with the subject of forgiveness. He ends this particular parable with the ominous warning, "*This is how my Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.*" This is no idle threat. Jesus is deadly serious. In another place, He concludes His great teaching on prayer with this chilling statement, "*But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*" (Matt 6:15). Forgiving everyone is clearly an absolute must in this Kingdom Family. But how can we? This parable offers some good tips for a start...

First, we must cultivate an awareness of the weightiness of our own sin against God. In the story, the difference in what the wicked servant owes the king and what his fellow-servant owes him is ridiculous. It's laughable — more than a million times more. No matter how good a person you are, your debt to God is incalculable. Your debt was so huge it required the blood of God Himself as payment. We tend to downplay the severity of our own sin. We know we need to be forgiven, but we have no concept of how desperate the situation is; how deeply we have offended God. In relation to this, no matter what has happened to you - and some have been traumatized and sinned against profoundly - it is insignificantly small compared with how you have wronged God.

Secondly, *you have been forgiven!* Although your sin is so vast, God has wiped it away. You owe a debt that you could never pay, but *He has paid it!* You contributed nothing to erase your own debt - not one penny. What grace! The knowledge of this crazy gift should serve to put you into a very generous frame of mind. You've been forgiven millions of dollars! You can afford - more than afford - to cancel a debt of a few thousand. In fact, in light of what the king has given you, it would be deeply unjust for you not to. *But you don't know what so-and-so did to me!* True. But Jesus knows. And still He calls us to this - because it is right.

Thirdly, Jesus knows what it is to be offended as a human, and to forgive. And He promises to be with you, too. He does not underestimate the difficulty - even the apparent impossibility - of the task. But He will walk through it with you, giving you the power to obey.