

# WEEK 2: A STORY ABOUT FORGIVENESS AND FORGIVING

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### PREPARE

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### MAIN POINT

In a world where others have hurt us, taken advantage of us, and brought significant damage to our lives, offering forgiveness sounds unrealistic. Or even trite. Yet we know that when we don't forgive we are the ones who suffer the most. Jesus gave a shocking story about forgiveness, connecting our ability to forgive with the forgiveness we have received. While we sometimes \*pretend\* to forgive someone because we know we should, we are doomed if our God merely pretended to forgive us, and the only way our hearts can really forgive is if we constantly apply God's mercy to our hearts. The ethic in Jesus' Kingdom is one of mercy because we have received mercy.

### LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

**When have you experienced generosity from someone else?  
Why does receiving generosity feel so good?**

### LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter approached him and asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?"

22 "I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven.

23 "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24

When he began to settle accounts, one who owed ten thousand 01

talents was brought before him. 25 Since he did not have the money to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.

26 "At this, the servant fell facedown before him and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 Then the master of that servant had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.

28 "That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, 'Pay what you owe!'"

29 "At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 But he wasn't willing. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed. 31 When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. 32 Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart."

**Read Matthew 18:21-35. What do you learn about the challenges of forgiveness from the passage?**

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LOOK OUT  
IDENTIFY THE  
RELEVANCE IF  
GOD'S WORD IN  
THE WORLD

**Why do you think people often choose the pain of unforgiveness over the pain of forgiveness? Where have you seen it? What are the barriers to choosing forgiveness?**

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LOOK IN  
APPLY GOD'S  
WORD  
TO YOUR LIFE

**How have you seen God work through either receiving or extending forgiveness in your life?**

**Is there anyone you need to forgive today? Pray for one another about this.**