



NEW TEACHING SERIES

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

You Can Forgive

October 18, 2020

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Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

"No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!" Matthew 18:22 (NLT)

Today's Truth: The deeper the gratefulness, the greater the forgiveness.

Matthew 18:23–30 (NLT)

Why we struggle "For Giving":

⇒ **We don't know how good we _____.**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NIV)

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:47 (NIV)

⇒ **We haven't allowed the depth of God's forgiveness
to _____ us.**

⇒ **We haven't realized the _____ of not forgiving.**

Matthew 18:31-35 (NLT)

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

This Week's Spiritual Practice: I will forgive _____ so I can be free.



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: *The Irony of Forgiveness*

Reflect Together: What impacted you the most from Sunday's message, and how were you able to apply this week's Spiritual Practice and be a part of the

Season of Prayer?

Share Together: When was there a time you made a mistake, and someone offered grace to you? How have you offered the same to others?

Read Together: Matthew 18:21-35

Discuss Together:

- Do we live in a forgiving culture? Why or why not?
 - The Jewish principle was to forgive someone up to 3 times, but not to go beyond that. Why was Peter proud of his question, and how does Jesus' response in verse 22 lead into the parable?
 - If this story represents God's kingdom, it implies that Jesus believed people owe a great debt to God that he is willing to forgive. What debt would people owe to God that would need forgiveness?
 - What is the great irony in this story regarding forgiveness? How can we be like the man who was forgiven but did not forgive?
 - Based on what you learned from this story, would you say God's forgiveness of us is limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional?
 - Why do you think Jesus wants us to forgive others for the wrongs they have done to us?
 - What are the alternatives practiced by people who do not forgive?
 - What effects does not practicing forgiveness have on our lives?
 - What are some practical examples of situations in modern life where we can put forgiveness into practice?
 - How does the depth of knowing what Christ did for us to experience forgiveness help you in offering forgiveness?
- How do you struggle with forgiveness and need prayer to forgive?

Pray Together: Take time to share how God is answering prayer and pray over the needs in your group.