

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1 When you think about your past hurts, what emotions come up, and what do they reveal about your heart?
- 2 What burden or pain have you been carrying that you sense God is asking you to release?
- 3 What fears or beliefs are keeping you from trusting God with your pain and sense of justice? What is one thing you sense God is inviting you to do today in response to His mercy?

WE DO LIFE TOGETHER!



SCAN QR

If you haven't been involved in a LIFE Group yet, send us a message thru Fb, and we will get you connected to a small group.

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EYES TO SEE, EARS TO HEAR

PART 2 - FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21-25 - "21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 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." (NIV)

Three Truths About Forgiveness:

1. We Have Been Forgiven an Unpayable Debt

In the story Jesus told, He said that a servant owed the king ten thousand talents. Now, during Jesus' time, a talent wasn't just a coin; it was a large unit of money. One talent was worth about 20 years of salary for a laborer. Multiply that by ten thousand. In today's terms, that could be more than 38 billion pesos. But the point is, this was an amount the servant could never pay back in his lifetime, not even if he worked a hundred years without stopping.

Jesus wasn't giving us a math lesson here. He was making a powerful point. That huge, unpayable debt represents our sin. All the times we've disobeyed God. All the wrong thoughts, words, and actions. All the things we wish we hadn't done, and even the things we don't realize we've done. Jesus is saying that our sin is not just a few small mistakes; it's a spiritual debt so great that no amount of good works, religion, or human effort could ever pay it back.

Now here comes the interesting part of the story. The servant, knowing he has no way out, falls on his knees and begs the king to give him more time. But the king doesn't just give him more time, he cancels the entire debt. Just like that. No conditions. No payment plans. Matthew 18:27 says, "The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt, and let him go."

That's grace. That's the heart of the gospel. That's what God has done for us through Jesus. When we come to Him, broken and aware of our sin, God doesn't say, "Work harder." He doesn't say, "Come back when you've cleaned up your life." Instead, because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, He cancels the debt. Not part of it. All of it. He doesn't just reduce our guilt, He removes it completely. He doesn't put us on probation, He sets us free.

This is what makes Christianity so powerful and so beautiful. We don't serve a God who keeps a record of our wrongs. We serve a God who paid our unpayable debt with His own blood. And when He forgives, He really forgives. No more guilt. No more shame. No more chains. That is the grace Jesus wants us to understand and to extend to others.

You would think that after being forgiven such a massive, life-changing debt, this servant would go out dancing. You'd expect him to be kind, happy, and generous. You'd think he'd forgive others the way he was forgiven? But then the story takes a turn.

2. Unforgiveness Reveals a Heart That Has Forgotten Grace

That same servant, freshly forgiven, walks out and finds a fellow servant who owes him a hundred silver coins. That's nothing compared to what he had just been forgiven. In today's terms, it's like someone who owes you maybe ₱10,000, a real amount, but one that can actually be paid back. And what does he do? He grabs the man by the throat and demands, "Pay back what you owe me!"

The second servant falls to his knees and says the exact same thing the first one said: "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back." Sounds familiar? But instead of showing mercy, the forgiven man refuses. He throws the other man into prison until he can repay the debt.

Jesus has got us thinking. Because if we're honest, we've all done something like this. We've received grace from God, more grace than we can ever repay, but when someone hurts us, we hold on to the offense. We get angry. We demand apologies. We write people off. We say things like, "I'll never forget what they did," or "They don't deserve my forgiveness."

And that's exactly the point Jesus is making. How can we, who have been forgiven so much, turn around and refuse to forgive others? When we hold on to bitterness, when we refuse to let go of offenses, it shows that we have forgotten how much mercy we've received. It reveals a heart that hasn't been truly transformed by grace.

Jesus is warning us here, not to scare us, but to wake us up. The way we treat others reveals how deeply we understand God's forgiveness. Folks, if grace has truly changed our hearts, then it should also change how we respond to people who hurt us. When we refuse to forgive others, we forget the mercy we've received. Grace isn't meant to stop with us, it's meant to flow through us. You cannot hold someone hostage in your heart while claiming to be free in Christ.

3. Forgiveness Is Not Optional, It's Essential

So, how does the story end? Jesus doesn't wrap it up with a happy ending. He doesn't say the forgiven servant eventually realized his mistake and became a better person. No, He ends it with a twist, a serious warning. When the king heard that the servant, who had just been forgiven an impossible debt, turned around and refused to forgive a much smaller debt, the king became very angry.

The king calls the man back in and says something powerful, something that should make all of us think. Matthew 18:33 - "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In those days, kings had full authority over their servants. This wasn't just a business deal. This was life or death. To be forgiven a debt of 10,000 talents, billions in today's money, was like being rescued from a death sentence. And to show no mercy over something like 100 silver coins was an act of cold, selfish pride. It's no wonder the king handed the man over to be punished until he could pay back all he owed, something that he could never actually do.

Then Jesus gives us the punchline of the parable, the part we don't always want to hear: Matthew 18:35 - "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Jesus isn't saying that if you're struggling to forgive someone, God instantly withdraws His forgiveness. God is not condemning the person who wants to forgive but is still healing. What He's saying is much deeper: If we refuse to forgive, if we hold tightly to bitterness, protect it, feed it, and let it harden our hearts, then it reveals something about us. It shows that maybe we never really understood how much God has forgiven us in the first place. Because when you've truly experienced mercy, you can't help but pass it on.

This is not a threat from Jesus. It's a truth about how the kingdom of God works. Bitterness is a prison. Unforgiveness doesn't hurt the other person as much as it poisons our own soul. It eats away at our peace, our relationships, our health, and even our ability to pray with a clean heart.

But forgiveness, true forgiveness, is freedom. It doesn't mean what they did was okay. It doesn't mean you pretend it didn't hurt. It means you're choosing not to carry the weight of it anymore. You're saying, "God, I leave this in Your hands." You're giving up your right to get even, and you're trusting God to heal your heart and deal with the situation His way.

You may never forget what happened. Some wounds leave scars, but you can choose to forgive. Forgiveness is not about what they deserve. It's about what you've received. Because the truth is, forgiven people... forgive. If we want to live as followers of Jesus, if we want to reflect the mercy we've been shown, then forgiveness can't be an optional part of our faith. It must be a lifestyle. A choice we make again and again, not just for their sake, but for ours.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1 What are some ways you can practice listening for God's voice during challenging times, especially when you feel He is distant or silent?
- 2 How does knowing that God's timing is perfect help you face your current struggles? In what areas of your life do you need to wait on the Lord more patiently?
- 3 Reflect on a difficult season you've gone through. How did that season shape you into a better person, and what lessons did you learn about God's presence during that time?



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Bible Reference: 1 Samuel 23

GOD GIVES THE VICTORY (1 Samuel 23:1-3)

David and his men were hiding in the forest of Hereth in Judah when they received word that the City of Keilah was being attacked by the Philistines. Since they were in a safe place, they didn't want to come out because they didn't think it was worth the risk to defend Keilah against the Philistines. So, David asked God for guidance not just once but twice, and both times God told him to go and save Keilah. Two things stood out here regarding David's character: 1. David wouldn't act without hearing from God first. He wasn't thinking about how this might improve his reputation or fame. His main concern was, "What does God want me to do?" Like David, our focus should be on doing God's will. 2. Once David knew what God wanted, he didn't hesitate. He didn't complain about the risks—he simply obeyed.

Before we do anything—before we ask for advice from others or make a final decision—we should seek God first. We need to stay connected to God through constant prayer, always seeking His guidance in every part of our lives. It's about living each day, moment by moment, looking to God for direction. This is how we should live—letting God direct every part of our lives. God understands what's best for us, better than we do, trusting Him to lead us for our good, the good of others, and His glory. To follow God's guidance, we need to ask for His direction in both small and big decisions.

It's comforting to know that God wants His plan to unfold in our lives even more than we do. He's not hiding His will from us or trying to keep us from