

Water of Life Community Church
BIBLICAL RECONCILIATION
WEEK 2
MATTHEW 18:15-35

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to forgiveness, we are without excuse. Belonging to the body of Christ means taking on responsibility for others. That doesn't make it easy, but thankfully, Jesus gives us the ultimate example of forgiveness and He also gives us instructions to help us see what it should look like in our world today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ MATTHEW 18:15-17.

- a. How does Scripture instruct us to approach the one who sins against us?
- b. Why do we so often discuss openly with someone not in the conflict before ever speaking to the offending spouse, friend, or fellow believer? What does this say about our motives and fears?
- c. Here we are reminded that reconciliation is a community thing. Why is reconciliation a community event?
- d. How would it benefit you to tell your small group you need to forgive someone?

2. READ MATTHEW 18:23-35.

- a. What did Pastor mean when he said, "Forgiveness is an indicator of how real your walk with Jesus really is"? Why is that an accurate statement?
- b. How has God's forgiveness in your life motivated you to be more forgiving?
- c. How would you describe the servant's response to the king's decree (v. 26)? What about when the person who offended you does not seem sorry? Do you still have the responsibility of forgiveness and reconciliation then? Explain.
- d. How did the king answer (v. 27)? What does the king's response reveal about his character?

e. The king took pity on the servant, canceled the debt, and let him go. Which of these three aspects of forgiveness is most difficult for you? Why?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

In your mind, what is the worst thing that could happen in seeking reconciliation? What positive things might happen?

Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive right now? What is keeping you from giving forgiveness?

Thank God for giving us Jesus as a faithful example of humble self-sacrificial service, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Pray that we model the gospel to one another by putting others' needs ahead of our own and that our love for one another would be a testimony of the gospel to the lost.

GOING DEEPER / WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- What is God revealing to you through the parable in Matthew 18?
- What relationships or situations in your life are calling out for forgiveness?

RESPOND

- Pray for healthy conversations to continue.
- Commit to taking a first step towards forgiveness.

Also ... subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 18:21-22 New International Version (NIV)

"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.'"