

## Lent-Easter 2026 (5 of 8) Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, March 22nd, 2026**



### **Sermon Series Summary**

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. The lyrics of the hymn "Come Thou Fount" come to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we will sing our way through Lent-Easter, binding our wandering hearts to God. Join us as we come alongside Peter in figuring out faith.

**Sermon Title:** Teach Me

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 18:15-35

**Sermon Focus:** As Peter learns how to be a student of Jesus he asks his master a question about forgiveness. Jesus' response seems impossible, but invites his followers to live into the reality of God's grace. In the fifth message of our Lenten series, Pastor Melissa shares about the transforming power of forgiveness and invites us to consider how we will respond to the mercy of Christ.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. How have you seen forgiveness lived out in our culture? What are common understandings (or misunderstandings) about forgiveness?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What is interesting, compelling, confusing, etc. about the story? Do you relate with any of the characters in the parable?
3. Jesus' story outlines for us a pattern of forgiveness (suggested by Tim Keller in his book *Forgive*), which includes 1) exposing the debt/sin ("brought to him"), 2) compassion and desiring the good of the other ("took pity"), 3) forgiveness and choosing to absorb the debt ("canceled the debt"), and 4) opening the door for full restoration ("let him go"). Do you find these steps helpful? How do these steps move us toward deeper reliance on God?
4. God's desire is for shalom (peace, wholeness) to be restored. We see in verses 15-20 that restoration begins within the body of Christ. Read those verses. Have you ever had a confrontation with a brother or sister in Christ regarding sin – whether yours or theirs? How did it go? Did it follow this pattern? Is there a fellow believer in your life right now that you are sensing you may need to humbly, lovingly confront about sin? Ask the group to pray with you about that.
5. Our ability to forgive and pursue restoration comes through the cross. How do we see forgiveness and justice coming together on the cross? Why is this so empowering?
6. Think about the response question for the week: **"How is Jesus inviting me to respond to his mercy?"** Are there areas where you are noticing sin festering? How is God speaking to you?
7. LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION: Pastor Melissa suggested that the church is to be a microcosm of God's shalom. How might God be inviting you or your group to participate in God's work of restoration where he has you (in your home, workplace, neighborhood, etc.)?
8. The Scripture promises that "where two or three gather in my [Jesus'] name, there am I with them." As you pray for one another today, remember that Christ is with you in your longings for shalom to be restored.