

THE GIFT OF PARDON

Matthew 18:21-35

November 12, 2023



INSTRUCTIONS:

Use these questions for your own personal study, and/or with your Small Group:

- Begin your discussion with the opening question. Encourage everyone to share, briefly.
- The format for this series will focus on the following three components:
 - **KNOW: What do we need to KNOW about God?** We are to know Jesus, Scripture, and the voice of the Holy Spirit.
 - **BE: Who are we called to BE?** We are to become more like Jesus (character, heart, and motivations)
 - **DO: What should we DO?** Knowing Jesus and becoming more like Him will change our actions.
- **PRAYER FOCUS:** Use the prayer prompt to guide your prayer time at the end. Pray as an individual, group, or consider sub-grouping into smaller men/women groups.

BEFORE YOUR GROUP MEETS:

- Encourage members to review the questions BEFORE group, so that they are prepared to share.
- Choose a few key questions that will bring out the most discussion in your group.

OPENING QUESTION: Do you remember watching a movie or reading a book where one character forgives another character? How did that scene unfold?

1. KNOW

- In this week's passage, what do we learn about God's character?
- What does the Scripture say? Is there an encouragement/warning? Is there a conviction or guidance?
- **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** Which character in the story does God represent? This character takes two significant actions in the story. What do both of these actions tell us about God's attributes?

2. BE

- Examine your life: how are you doing with freely receiving God's pardon and freely giving your pardon?
- How does this passage challenge you to change?
- During Jesus' ministry on earth, list the times that He forgave others. The Lord's Prayer has us asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. Why does God entrust us with the power to help or hurt ourselves and others using our ability to forgive?

3. DO

- Based on what you read and learned this week, what might God be calling you to do?
- What is one action step you will take in obedience?
- Is there someone that you need to forgive? Is there someone who wants to heal a conflict with you, but you still haven't let them?

PRAYER FOCUS: In prayer (silently or with your group), acknowledge several ways that God has forgiven you of your sins and how other people have forgiven you of the hurt that you have caused them. Then, pray for the people that He is calling you to forgive. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you peace about your situation and for help in letting go of the hurt of the past to move forward, trusting Him or the outcome.