

Study Guide - 8 March, 2020

Series: Redeeming Relationship

Text: Matthew 18:21-35



This guide will help you facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. You should spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. Look at the Big Idea and What your CG Must Take Away sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused.

Introduction and Series Overview

The aim of the Redeeming Relationship series is to help us understand the various roles we play relationally, and how each of these is to be done under God empowered by the gospel. This gives us a proper framework for both redeeming broken relationships and relating to others, and how to generally relate to church members in a way that builds them up. It also helps us understand our own hearts and each other in relationships so that we can be compassionate and clear with them, as well as specific relationships that people find themselves in family, marriage, kids, work, etc.

Big idea

We are only able to forgive others when we comprehend the enormous debt we first have been forgiven by God and what it cost him to do so. Receiving this grace empowers us to give the same grace and blessing of forgiveness to others in our relationships.

What your CG must take away from this study

For your group to consider the forgiveness God has provided for you in Jesus, and step towards others to give the grace and forgiveness you have received.

Read Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and

went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

1a. Why did Peter ask Jesus about the frequency of forgiveness? And, what kind of answer do you think Peter is expecting?

1b. How does Jesus answer Peter?

2a. What does the debt represent in the parable?

2b. Why is it helpful to understand sin as a debt?

2c. How does the first servant's debt compare to the second person's debt?

3. Why does the first servant not deal with the second servant graciously?

4. Why is forgiveness difficult?

5. How has unforgiveness damaged some of our relationships?

6. What is the point of Jesus' parable? (Consider v32-33)

7a. According to Jesus' parable, where does the power to forgive others come from?

7b. What are we failing to remember and comprehend, when we find it difficult to forgive other people?

7c. In what ways is our forgiveness of other people modelled on God's forgiveness of us?

8. What are some of the ways we get forgiveness wrong? How is our "forgiveness" not really forgiveness? (What are subtle ways we think we are forgiving someone, but we are not really?)

9. When we think of sin as a debt, what does true forgiveness look like? (Consider verses 15, 22 and 35)

Apply Practically

10. Is there anyone with whom you need to seek reconciliation? Think about within this CG especially and consider the two sides of forgiveness: seeking forgiveness and distributing forgiveness. Is there someone you should seek out to gain your brother or sister? (v15)

Pray together as a group, especially for the relationships in which your group members are seeking reconciliation.