



**ONE
ANOTHER SERIES**



Forgive One Another from Your Heart

MATTHEW 18:21–35



STUDY GUIDE

CONTENTS

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus 1

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God 1

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word 2

WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask members of your GG to choose a partner, then take turns to briefly share one or two things others do or say that easily offend you and why. Secondly, share what kind of words or actions others do that affirm you most. Pray a short prayer of thanksgiving to God for bringing you together in the same community.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- [His Mercy is More](#)
- [Lovingkindness](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members learn that forgiveness is granted willingly or purposely. As believers, we are to continue to forgive without keeping count because the reality of our own forgiveness is demonstrated in the way in which God forgives us.
2. GG members learn that we must always be ready to forgive and restore anyone who repents to the path of discipleship, it is the purpose of discipline within the church.
3. GG members learn that genuine forgiveness is from the heart. Unless we are comparably merciful to others, God's mercy has not had a saving effect on us.

INTRODUCTION

Forgiveness is not always easy to apply. Getting offended is a constant reality in our lives. We live in a sinful world, and conflict happens all the time, even among believers. Our transformed heart must result in changed behavior. We are to grant others the same mercy and forgiveness we have received from God. He sees our heart, the core of our being. True forgiveness involves our reason, emotions, and will. Let's look at five principles of forgiveness and the implication it leads us.

PRINCIPLE I: FORGIVENESS IS WITHOUT LIMIT (vv. 21-22)

Within Judaism's teachings (read Amos 1:3; 2:6; Job 33:29, 30), three times was enough to show a forgiving spirit. Judaism recognized that those who offend repeatedly may not really be repenting at all. In our daily life, we can get caught up in a regular pattern of sinning and seeking forgiveness and restoration. So, how often should a Christian forgive?

1. Why do you think Peter gave the number seven as the number of times he should forgive his brother? What is the significance of the number seven?
2. How did Jesus' response, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times," change your understanding of forgiveness?

Application

What does it really mean for a true disciple of Christ to forgive? Does this also mean reconciliation or business as usual?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

PRINCIPLE II: OUR SINS AGAINST GOD ARE MANY BUT HIS MERCY IS MORE (vv. 23-27).

Using a parable, Jesus illustrates what forgiveness is like for those who have been transformed (encountered the kingdom of heaven). The kingdom is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. Jesus shows the following truths:

a) the massive debt we owe because of our sins against a holy God; b) our complete inability to pay such debt; c) God's great mercy and patience; and d) God's great provision of Christ's death and resurrection to pay the debt for sins and to break the power of sin.

1. How much did the servant owe his master? How much would this amount be in modern times? (A talent is equivalent to 20 years' worth of wages.)
2. What did the master do when the servant could not pay his debt?
3. How did the master respond to the servant's plea? What can you say about the master, given his response?

Application

What do these truths teach you about your own standing before God? How should God's mercy and benevolence affect your relationship with other believers when you are offended?

PRINCIPLE III: THE SINS OF OTHERS AGAINST US ARE MINOR COMPARE TO OUR SINS AGAINST GOD (vv. 28-30).

The sins we commit against others are really small in light of the sins we commit against God. It doesn't give us any reason not to forgive. Because we have been forgiven much, we are to respond with the same attitude toward those who need our forgiveness. Instead of a "pay back what you owe me attitude," we are to demonstrate leniency and mercy the same way God has shown us.

1. How much did the other servant owe the first servant? How much is this in modern-day terms? (A denarius is equivalent to a day's wages.)
2. What was the second servant's response? Compare this with the response of the first servant.
3. How did the first servant respond to the plea? Compare this with the response of the master.
4. What can you say about the first servant based on his response?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Application

Is it necessary and biblical for Christians to sue each other in court when offenses are committed, or is it better to respond with compassion and grace? Why and how?

PRINCIPLE IV: OUR UNFORGIVENESS IS EVIDENT TO GOD, HE SEES EVERYTHING (v. 31).

The ungrateful servant cannot get away with his deceitfulness. Other servants of the master were greatly distressed when they saw how he mistreated the one who owed him a small amount (compared to what he owed the master), they went and reported the matter to their master. The unforgiving servant revealed the true nature of his character, the master called him “you wicked servant!” (v. 32).

1. Why do you think the other servants were distressed at the actions of the first servant?
2. What did they do in response to what the first servant did?

Application

What does it tell you when someone claims to be a believer and yet couldn't forgive the offenses of others? What are some reasons other Christians find it difficult to forgive, and do you think these reasons are biblical?

PRINCIPLE V: THE JUSTICE WE DEMAND FROM OTHERS IS THE SAME JUSTICE WE WILL RECEIVE FROM GOD (vv. 32-34).

The mercy and compassion of the master toward the first servant who asked for his forgiveness should have impacted his life and values greatly so that he, in return, would have shown the same mercy and compassion to others. Sadly, his wicked nature has only taken selfish advantage of the master. But God, who is rich in mercy, is also just and righteous that he will not let sin go unpunished.

1. What was the master's response to the first servant? What principle can we learn from it?
2. How did the master treat the first servant? Compare this with how the first servant treated the second servant.

Application

What are some possible reasons for you not to forgive others? How can your experience of God's mercy and compassion help you release forgiveness toward a person who has hurt you deeply?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

PRAYER ITEM

Close your time in prayer by asking God's forgiveness. Pray for grace to help you forgive others. Ask God to set you free! ■



Your feedback is important to us.

If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1357 ⓘ Greenhills Christian Fellowship 📺 GCF Main