DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 18:21–35

Read through the passage together before you begin.

1. Peter's question in v. 21 seems reasonable and sincere. How many chances are you generally willing to give someone who sins against you?
2. How does Jesus' answer in v. 22 knock Peter's version of grace off balance? How does Jesus' response initially strike you? Why?
3. How would you define forgiveness? What is the difference between forgiving and forgetting? How does the terminology of debt help us think about the nature of forgiveness?
4. Read the first scene of the parable aloud (vv. 23–27). What did you notice? How would you have felt after being forgiven?
5. Now read the second scene of the parable aloud (vv. 28–30). Why do the forgiven servant's actions seem so out of line with the situation?
6. Now read the final scene of the parable aloud (vv. 31–34). Do you think the king's reaction is just and fair? Why or why not?
7. What is the difference between forgiveness and trust? What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
8. What are spaces and relationships where it is hard for you to forgive? How might this parable help you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Thank God for the debt He has forgiven you in Christ, and pray for one another in the places where forgiveness is hard.