

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS  
"Tis the Season to Forgive"  
Matthew 1:18-21; 18:21-35  
Week of December 18, 2016

**Central Truth:** Christmas is the season to forgive my offender just like God has forgiven me.

1. Who are your heroes of forgiveness? Share a few and explain what you admire about them.
2. *"To forgive is to release an undeserving offender from personal obligation to you (even though that person will have to face the justice of God)."* What is your initial reaction to the concept of forgiveness? What makes forgiving offenders most difficult for you?
3. Do you believe that forgiveness is always, in all cases, required?
4. Carefully read Matthew 18:21-35. What explanation is given for why the servant who owed 10,000 talents should have forgiven the servant who owed him 100 denarii? How does this truth speak to you? [Note: one talent = 20 yrs. wages; one denarius = one day's wage]
5. Read Matthew 18:35; 6:12; 6:14-15.
  - a. What is the common theme and what implications does it have for you?
  - b. Does changing your perspective from how you have been wronged by your offender to how you have been forgiven by God affect your willingness to forgive? Why or why not?
6. How does unforgiveness hurt you? How does forgiveness bless you?
7. Picture the person who has caused you the most hurt. Imagine forgiving that person, and write down what that would look like. Share with others.
8. What one insight from the message seems most personally significant to you right now, and how would you like this truth to affect your life (i.e., your thoughts, attitudes, habits, conduct)?