

1. Are you naturally a forgiving person?
2. How many times should we forgive someone for the same offense?
3. What's the hardest part of forgiving someone?

*Matthew 18:21-22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

4. Jewish law said to forgive 2 or at most 3 times. How do you think this statement by Jesus, to forgive 77 or (7 X 70 times), would have come across to the hearers?
5. What do you think Jesus' point was in making this statement?

*Matthew 18:23-35 - <sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup> "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. <sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' <sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

6. What stands out to you from this story?
7. Jesus begins this story by saying that, "the kingdom of heaven is like". How is the kingdom of heaven like this king?
8. How important do you think that forgiveness to God?
9. What are your thoughts about how the master responded to the servant?
10. How is God like the master in this story?
11. Verse 35 says that God will treat those who don't forgive from the heart like the master treated the wicked servant. What are your thoughts about this?
12. The master in this story forgave the equivalent of 8 billion dollars in gold, the servant wouldn't forgive the equivalent of \$15,000 in silver. What lesson was Jesus making in this story?
13. How much has God forgiven you?
14. What did that forgiveness cost?
15. How does the debt of your sin to God compare to the debt of others sins against you?
16. Who is God calling you to forgive? What will you do this week to move that direction?