



## *The Hindrance of Unforgiveness*

**INTRODUCTION:** The issue of forgiveness is something that we all wrestle with because we have all done wrong and we have all been wronged. The impact of forgiveness is so important because how we act towards others also impacts our relationship with God. Fortunately, God can relate to the pain that we feel when we have been sinned against and He shows us how, through His power, we can have victory in this area of our life and forgive others. Let's unpack how to overcome this hindrance.

**READ:** Matthew 18:21-35

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. We have been reminded throughout our study that there are many things that can hinder us from being the person that God has called us to be. Share a time in your life where you were hindered by unforgiveness (either on your part or from another towards you.)
2. If you were teaching a child about forgiveness, how would you explain it and illustrate it?
3. What question did Peter ask to prompt Jesus teaching the truth about forgiveness? What did the Jewish culture believe about forgiveness? How was their perspective practical?
4. How did Jesus answer Peter's question? What does this teach us?
5. Why do children seem to be more apt to practice this?
6. In Jesus's parable, what offense did the first servant commit?
  - a. How did the king respond?
  - b. What does this reveal about the king?
  - c. How have you personally experienced this in your own life?
7. The forgiven servant immediately turned his attention to the one who owed him. How would you describe his actions? Why is this typical of those who harbor unforgiveness?
8. Why did he choose to refuse grace and mercy?
  - a. In your opinion, what specific things hindered him?
  - b. How have you personally experienced this?
9. What were the consequences for the unmerciful servant who refused to forgive? How do we face the same when we refuse to forgive?

**MAKE IT SO:** Is there anyone that you need to forgive? *(Take time in your group right now to pray for the strength and conviction to forgive or seek forgiveness this week)*

### **READING LIST:**

**Monday:** Matthew 5:3-12 / **Tuesday:** Matthew 6:9-15 / **Wednesday:** Luke 6:27-36 / **Thursday:** Luke 6:37-45 / **Friday:** Luke 7:40-50 / **Saturday:** Colossians 3:12-17 / **Sunday:** Ephesians 4:25-5:2