

## **Parables: The Unmerciful Servant Small Group Study Guide**

**Read:** Matthew Chapter 18 together.

**Discuss:**

- 1) Chapter 18 starts with the disciples arguing over who is the greatest. What is the funniest/weirdest thing you and your siblings argued over? (or cousins, or neighborhood friends if you didn't have siblings)
- 2) Have you ever had a conversation go from light discussion to heated argument faster than you could realize it? How did you diffuse the situation? Did you or someone else say something you shouldn't have? How did you handle it?
- 3) I imagine the disciples getting quite energetic in their discussion, because Jesus' teaching moves into what God values, and how to respond when a fellow believer sins against you. What can we determine about the heart of God from the rest of Jesus' teachings in chapter 18?
- 4) What is the hardest for you? Forgiving again and again, Not punishing those who hurt me, Forgiving from my heart (I can say the words, but I don't feel them), or Wondering how I can forgive without encouraging irresponsibility.
- 5) How have you been burned in past relationships? From what we read in Matthew 18, what can we learn about pursuing relationships despite past hurts?
- 6) Is God calling you to forgive someone? What steps do you need to take to find the freedom forgiveness brings, and let God's love flow from you? Talk to the person who hurt me, Hold that person accountable for the consequences of their actions, Tell that person I've forgiven them, Look for ways to show kindness and compassion to that person, Ask God for strength, Ask forgiveness for my wrongs.

**Pray:**

Thank God for his love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness that he extended to you. Thank Him for asking us to do hard things. Thank Him for His Spirit.

Confess whatever is on your heart.

Ask Him for wisdom and discernment concerning the navigation of difficult relationships. Ask Him for guidance. Ask Him for compassion for others. Ask Him for courage.