



## Session 4

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### Big Idea:

Forgiveness is a key to unlocking generational change in our families through God's power.

### GROUP OPENER

Share a time you needed forgiveness but were totally unaware until someone brought it to your attention.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read [Matthew 18:21-35](#) Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

### ACTION STEPS

*I will statement . . .*

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will \_\_\_\_\_". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share it with the group.

April 28  
WEEKEND

### As a Group

C.S. Lewis once said, "Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive."

The truth of that statement is powerful, we want to hold on to the wrongs done to us. Releasing that is so challenging, it is easy to walk through life developing a chip on your shoulder for the slights and sins against you. God calls us to forgiveness which is difficult.

Take some time discussing the thoughts that were shared on Christian forgiveness.

Christian forgiveness always costs the victim because it means absorbing at least some of the debt.

Christian forgiveness heals the victim with Christian love.

Christian forgiveness is based on the character of the giver, not the worthiness of the recipient.

Christian forgiveness is offered from an experience of divine forgiveness by the power of God in the hope of healing for the sinner.

Christian forgiveness is commanded so sinners can live in community for now.

Christian forgiveness is commanded so victims can be at peace for now.

### On Your Own

"Jesus's final sentence means that divine mercy should change our hearts so that we are able to forgive as God forgave us. If we will not offer others forgiveness, it shows that we did not truly repent and receive God's." - Tim Keller, *Forgive*