



## Sermon Outline

### Key verses

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.*

*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Colossians 3:13

### Forgiven people forgive people

1. Forgiveness is giving to others what God has given to you

*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?"*

Matthew 18:32-33

2. We all need forgiveness

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:23

3. There is power in forgiveness

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9

## THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

AUGUST 18  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Opening Thought

This parable shows how silly and wrong it is for a forgiven person to withhold forgiveness from others. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant challenges us to offer to others what God has offered to us. By forgiving others, we are acknowledging our understanding of God's love for us. Jesus forgives us, so we should forgive each other. Simply put: Forgiven people forgive people.

### Ice breakers

- How would you celebrate if all of your debts were cancelled today?
- What is your favorite flavor of Pop Tart?

### Dig Deeper

- Read Colossians 3:12-14. What stands out?
- Look closely at the two pleas in the parable (v. 26 & 29). Are they identical?
- What happens to our fellowship with God when we refuse to show mercy?
- How has God's forgiveness affected your life? Has it affected your willingness to forgive?
- What have you found helpful in forgiving those who have wronged you?
- What stood out to you from today's sermon?

### Closing

This parable teaches that we have a debt that cannot be paid. We owe the Lord our very life, because we have sinned against him. If we ask forgiveness from the Lord, then Christ will pay our debt. And since Jesus forgives us, we should forgive others. Forgiveness breaks the chains of bitterness and resentment and sets us free!