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Forgiveness is not just \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

“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.

<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.”

Matthew 18:21-35

HOW CAN I FORGIVE OTHERS?

Forgiveness is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_

Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_

### STEPS TOWARD FORGIVENESS

1. Look \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stop \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pray \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ask \_\_\_\_\_

#### Memory Verse

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

#### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for the 1st time
- Memorize Galatians 2:20
- Surrender my desire to pay back those who have wronged me and trust Him who judges justly
- Pray that God would bless those who have wronged me
- Get the most out of today’s teaching by participating in a Life Group this week



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## Discussion Questions - Week #2

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "Forgiving Others," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

What impacted you the most from the message?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

- When you were younger, what did you and your siblings or friends fight over the most? When one of you hurt the other, how did you usually resolve it?
- Forgiveness tends to be more of a journey than an event. Sometimes we don't want to be on that journey. What are some of the reasons we give for holding on to a grudge or not forgiving?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the message this weekend Pastor Andrew mentioned that forgiveness is generously forgiving a genuine debt against us and refusing our right to payback. In 1 Samuel 24:1-13, we see an example of David refusing his right to revenge on Saul even though he had been wronged. How and why do you think David was able to deny his desire for payback?

What is the most challenging aspect for you in extending forgiveness and forgoing your right to payback?

How can this passage (along with Romans 12:14-21) help motivate us to forgive instead of seeking payback?

2. One of the hardest parts of forgiving is getting past the hurt we feel for what has taken place especially when the other person doesn't apologize or try to make the situation right. Read Ecclesiastes 7:20, Romans 3:23 and 1 John 4:19-21. How might these verses help someone who is holding onto bitterness or the feeling that certain people don't deserve to be forgiven?

What would you say to another Christian who told you that it's impossible for them to forgive someone that's hurt them?

In 1 John we're told in order to love God we must love our brother and sister. How do we forgive someone, or even love them after they have hurt us?

3. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. What do you think it means to forgive others just as in Christ God forgave us?

How is God's forgiveness of us different than the way that we forgive others?

How does extending forgiveness make us more like Christ?

What is the connection between the things Paul mentions in verses 29 and 31 with the forgiveness he describes in verse 32?

### TAKING IT HOME

☞ Is there anyone in your life who you know you need to forgive? How can the group support you to take that step