



His STORY

Icebreaker:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “I forgive very quickly” and 5 being “I struggle to forgive,” rate your ability to forgive others.

Share why you gave that number.

JANUARY

18

**Joseph
Forgiveness**

Genesis 37-50



NEXT WEEK

**Spencer Hackett
Guest Speaker**

Discussion:

The Parable of the Wicked Servant: Matthew 18:22-35

The servant's debt was impossible to repay, just like our sin debt before God.

How does the king's mercy reflect God's forgiveness toward us?

What makes the forgiven servant's actions so shocking?

Why do you think it's easier to receive forgiveness than to extend it?

How can unforgiveness end up imprisoning the person who refuses to forgive?

What does Jesus mean by forgiving “from your heart”?

How can someone say they forgive but still hold on to resentment?

What signs indicate that forgiveness has reached the heart?

1. Forgiveness Has No Limits (Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 17:3-5)

The measure of our forgiveness toward others reveals whether we truly understand the forgiveness we have received from God.

Why do you think Peter wanted a limit on forgiveness?

How does shifting forgiveness from an act to an attitude change the way we live?

Why does forgiveness require faith?

What are some subtle ways people keep score without realizing it?

How does scorekeeping affect our peace, prayer life, and relationships?

2. Unforgiveness Reveals a Hardened Heart (Ephesians 4:32)

Holding a grudge after being forgiven is like being released from prison but choosing to stay in the cell.

What “cells” does unforgiveness keep people trapped in (emotionally, spiritually, relationally)?

Why is it sometimes easier to stay in the cell than walk into freedom?

3. Unforgiveness Has Serious Consequences (Matthew 6:14-15).

Forgiveness is not optional for believers. It is evidence of transformation and right standing with God.

What's the difference between struggling to forgive and refusing to forgive?

How does unforgiveness affect our fellowship with God?

What does personal responsibility look like in forgiveness?

How would your relationships change if forgiveness became your default response rather than your last option?

How does remembering our impossible debt forgiven by God change how we view others' offenses?

How does this parable challenge the way you think about forgiveness—not as an option, but as a response to grace?

Deeper Dive:

1. Identify a “smaller debt” you may be holding on to right now? Release that debt to God this week?
2. Is there a relationship where forgiveness has become conditional or delayed?
3. How might God be calling you to respond with tenderness instead of hardness this week?
4. Identify a situation where you've chosen manageable pain over deeper healing?
5. What kind of freedom do you believe God desires for you through forgiveness?