

## Purpose:

Jesus teaches that forgiveness is not about keeping score, but about being transformed by the grace we've received—so we extend it to others, **together with Him**.

## Icebreaker (5 minutes)

When someone wrongs you, what is your instinct: avoid it, hold onto it, or forgive quickly? Why?

## Scripture Focus

Read Matthew 18:18–35 (ESV).

As you listen, notice:

- What does Jesus reveal about forgiveness?
- What contrast do you see between the two servants?

## Observations from the Text

1. What does Peter's question (v.21) reveal about his mindset?
2. How does Jesus respond (v.22)? What does He mean?
3. What stands out about the first servant's debt (vv.23–27)?
4. How does he treat the second servant (vv.28–30)?
5. Why does the king respond so strongly at the end (vv.31–35)?

## Core Teaching Connection

Because we've been forgiven an immeasurable debt, we are called to extend that same grace. And Jesus reminds us (vv.18–20):

We do not do this alone—we act **with Him and under His authority**.

- When we **bind**, we resist and stop the spread of sin
- When we **loose**, we release forgiveness and freedom

This is not individual spirituality—it is **shared, communal authority with Jesus**.

Where even two or three pursue reconciliation in His name, **His presence and power are at work**.

So Jesus is not calling us to:

## Sermon Guide: Engaging Conflict with Grace and Humility – Matthew 18:18–35

- keep count
- manage a minimum
- or separate faith from relationships

He calls us to a transformed life marked by:

- **Humility** – My debt before God is immeasurable
- **Integrity** – Receiving grace and extending it
- **Community (“We over Me”)** – We walk in Jesus’ authority together

We don’t just believe the gospel—

**we live it out together through forgiveness and restored relationships.**

### Group Discussion

1. Why do we tend to want limits on forgiveness?
2. Do you have experience with Peter’s minimal required mindset?
3. What stands out about the contrast between the two debts?
4. How does understanding “binding and loosing” change how you view conflict?
5. Why is extending grace often harder than receiving it?

### Dig Deeper – “We Over Me”

1. Where are you tempted to separate your faith from your relationships?
2. What “competing affections” make forgiveness difficult (pride, control, being right, self-protection)?

### Personal Reflection (Quiet – 2 minutes)

- Is there a relationship where I need to step toward reconciliation?
- Am I trusting Jesus’ presence and power in that step?

### Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for canceling our debt and inviting us to walk in Your authority together. Help us to resist sin, release forgiveness, and pursue reconciliation with humility and courage. Make us a community marked by Your presence, Your grace, and Your restoring power. Amen.