



## **Resolving Everyday Conflict - Discussion Guide**

### **Session 7: Forgiveness from the Heart**

**Passage:** Matthew 18:23-35

**Introduction:** In this session we will consider how we honor God in our relationships by getting together to find lasting solutions. Reconciliation begins with our willingness to forgive those who have sinned against us. In this parable, Jesus helps us understand the cost and the way to grant true forgiveness from the heart



#### **Into the Word**

How does this parable describe sin? Our sin against God? Sins against us?

Compare: Matthew 6:12

Note: This parable describes sin as debt. One talent was equal to 20 years of wages. A hundred denarii was equal to 20 weeks of wages.

What can the actions of the King teach us about true forgiveness? What are the marks of false forgiveness? (pg. 89-90)

Compare: Matthew 18:21-22

Note: True forgiveness is always costly.

How does this parable describe the consequences of withholding forgiveness?

Note: Notice how withholding forgiveness affects our relationship with God and others.

Why does the King expect the servant to forgive his fellow servant?

Consider: Ephesians 2:4-5



#### **Into the Heart**

When are we tempted to withhold forgiveness? What fuels bitterness or vengeance?

Consider: 1 Timothy 1:15, Romans 12:19

**Read Ephesians 4:32.** Why must we remember that our ability to forgive comes from God? What are the consequences of trying to forgive in our own strength?



#### **Into the World**

**Consider a recent conflict.** What might false forgiveness look like in this relationship? What are the consequences of false forgiveness? How can you begin to extend true forgiveness? What temptations may arise?

How does extending forgiveness in our relationships extend our witness to Christ? Can you think of any examples?