

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Let the Future Begin (pt. 3)” - 09.06.15

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-17; Matthew 18:21-31

Bottom Line: When we are offended and sinned against we must choose to show the same forgiveness and mercy that God has shown us.

INTRODUCTION:

In this week's sermon Pastor Rob talked about his unfortunate apartment flooding. He publicly confessed that it may be the most, “boneheaded move,” he's ever made. Have you ever been responsible for any, “boneheaded,” things like an accidental flooding? Share with your group!

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 18:15-17

We've all been sinned against and hurt by other people's actions. Our natural response is anger, bitterness, and revenge. That is the human response, but how does God desire for us to resolve conflict?

- 1) ***Have you ever been offended/sinned against? What is your typical response?***
- 2) ***Based on these verses how does God want us to practically respond to being sinned against?***

Read Matthew 18:21-31

In these verses Jesus goes after the kind of approach we need to have when we are confronting a brother/sister in sin. We must operate out of an understanding that God forgave us far more than anyone could ever sin against us.

- 1) ***What does Jesus mean by forgiving, “seventy times seven”? (unending grace)***
- 2) ***What does Jesus' parable tell us about our relationship with Him?***
 - He is the King who has forgiven us of our debt which we could have never paid. God doesn't just erase our debt, he sends Jesus to take it on and pay the penalty. We have been greatly forgiven so we can greatly forgive others.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

- 1) Who have you been withholding grace and forgiveness from? Ask your small group to pray for you to take steps toward forgiveness.
- 2) Take a step towards reconciliation with that individual. Ask God to give you the strength to help you forgive as you've been forgiven.
- 3) Commit to reading the Bible and understanding God's great love for you! As we gain more knowledge & understanding of God, we become more like Him and more apt to act like He would - being gracious and forgiving to everyone around us.