



The story for this week's small group discussion found in Matthew 18:21-35 is the fifth and final account that is unique to the life of Peter. Peter was the most outspoken of all the disciples - you could call Peter the leader or spokesman of the disciples. In Matthew 18, Peter asks Jesus a question about how many times to forgive someone. Peter thinks he is being very generous in his question as seven times was significantly over the cultural norm, but we'll see that Jesus had a different standard. The topic of forgiveness can be a painful subject for many. We have all been hurt at some time in our lives. Many of us bear the scars of those painful situations. Start your time in prayer, and ask Jesus to guide your conversation on forgiveness and the power of forgiveness.

1. Share about a time when you were hurt by someone and extended forgiveness to that person. Recount what it felt like to offer forgiveness. Did you feel better about the situation or do you wish you had not offered forgiveness?
2. **Read Matthew 18:21-22.** Rabbinical law said that you are to forgive a person three times when they have wronged you, so Peter looked very generous. What do you think about Jesus telling us to forgive a person so many times?
3. Neal taught us that forgiveness isn't making excuses, forgetting, or reconciliation. **Read Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 64:9, and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.** Which one of these was most helpful for you to learn/understand about forgiveness?
4. To illustrate extravagant forgiveness, Jesus told a story. **Read Matthew 18:23-27.** What do you think it would have felt like to have that large of a debt forgiven? Share about a time someone extended wild forgiveness to you.
5. Immediately after being forgiven such a large debt, the servant acted wickedly. **Read Matthew 18:28-31.** Why do you think this servant acted in such a wicked manner after being forgiven? **Read Luke 7:47** and talk about the response of forgiveness.
6. The next move in the story brings it back to the two original characters. **Read Matthew 18:32-35.** How has God shown us great mercy, and how have we have failed to show that same mercy to others?
7. Many people think that getting revenge will make them feel better. Studies show that the opposite is true. **Read Matthew 5:38-48.** How will you act on offering and asking for forgiveness this week?
8. Close your time in prayer. Talk about who you will invite to Coastline.