

WEEK 3 – OCTOBER 2, 2016

Sermon Title: 70 x 7

Sermon Passages: *Matthew 18:21-35; John 4:1-26*

Life Group Passage: *Colossians 3:12-15*

Big Idea: *A Christian without forgiveness is Christianity without the cross.*

Themes:

- You have been forgiven everything by God's grace.
- Based on Jesus' teaching and example, we are to always pursue forgiveness.
- We forgive because we have been forgiven.
- Forgiveness in action is a practical guide to ask for and extend forgiveness.

GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The lesson contained five explanations of what forgiveness is not. Which one(s) do you have a hard time applying? Why?
- Do you tend to mentally replay the pain a person has caused you? How can replaying in your mind the pain they have caused you be detrimental to your relationship?
- Why has it been difficult to forgive the other person? What fears do you have about extending forgiveness?
- Read Matthew 18:21-35. How are you "demanding repayment" from someone for ways they have hurt you?

MARRIAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Your relationship with God is grounded in grace, and so must your relationship with your spouse. It's the foundational pillar to any healthy relationship.

- Most people operate on a merit-based system and keep score. Why do you believe this is ultimately destructive for any relationship, especially a marriage? Can you think of ways that you have fallen into this trap? (If you can't, maybe ask your spouse - I'm sure they've noticed when you've kept score.)
- Is it harder for you to receive grace or give grace? Why?
- What fears do you have about extending forgiveness to your spouse?

ACTION ITEMS

- When your spouse frustrates, hurts or disappoints you this week, look for an opportunity to extend grace.
- What is one area of your life where you need to ask your spouse for forgiveness and commit to change? Share your commitment with someone of the same gender in your group, ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable.
- Is there anything you need to confess to your spouse and ask for forgiveness? Pray and ask God to give you courage to talk to your spouse. If you are still unable to talk to your spouse, set up a time to discuss the issue with your Life Group leader.

SINGLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Most people operate on a merit-based system and keep score. Why do you believe this is ultimately destructive for any relationship? Can you think of ways that you have fallen into this trap?
- Is it harder for you to receive grace or give grace? Why?
What fears do you have about extending forgiveness towards people in your life?