



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: People Problems - Broken Forgiveness, 10/1/23 - Unwillingness to forgive is how we look to protect ourselves. We think it will keep us from being hurt or taken advantage of again. But it really builds a wall between us and everyone else, including God. Discovering the keys to forgiveness is empowering. And choosing it is freeing. (*Passages: Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 3:13, Luke 23:34*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Why are we unwilling to forgive? What does the aftermath of choosing unforgiveness look like? Do we feel peace? Who really hurts the most? Can it affect bystanders?

Read Matthew 18:21-35. What stands out to you in this passage. Why?

Jesus' parable is so clear. The first servant's treatment of his fellow servant is obviously unjust; and even hints at a lack of gratitude for being forgiven himself. But what about when that first servant is us? Isn't it easy to fall into a place of offense? Or want to take justice into our own hands? How do we fight the instinct to fall victim to hurt?

Forgiveness is so important. It's a choice (not a feeling) that takes courage, faith, and will. We have to stop looking to get even or dish what we think others deserve. Colossians 3:13 instructs us to forgive as Christ forgives. Jesus is our example, and he forgives freely. Even on the cross, Jesus pled forgiveness for those who condemned him. So we shouldn't make others earn it either. Do any wounds, old or new, come to your mind? Is God highlighting where you need to apply forgiveness like Jesus?

Let's stop looking to our feelings, and forgive because we have received it ourselves. Let's make the choice in our hearts to place our hurt in God's hands. He is there to strengthen and help us through. The peace on the other side of forgiveness is incomparable.

Weekly Challenge: There are a ton of ways to serve at Grace; could you give one Sunday per month? Email info@gracefreechurch.net to say yes!

COME  **GROW**  **GO** 