

# CONFLICT(ED)

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

pursuing peace in  
a cancel culture

### DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss what it means for believers to forgive one another. Discuss how a lack of forgiveness affects both us and others. Motivate your life group to find forgiveness with each other and other believers.

### ICE BREAKER



Describe a time when you were emotionally hurt by another person. What happened and how did you respond?

### TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

#### Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup>“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup>The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. <sup>29</sup>“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ <sup>30</sup>“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

(Turn to the ESV Bible to continue reading verses 31-35)

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: God’s family forgives as they’ve been forgiven.

Key Question: Why is forgiveness a necessity?

1. Because we have been Forgiven Much. (vv. 21-27)
2. Because Forgiveness is the Way of the Kingdom. (vv. 28-35)

## DISCUSSION



- In verse 21 Peter approaches Jesus with a question regarding how many times a person can be forgiven. As hard as it is to understand Peter's intentions, why do you believe Peter was asking Jesus this question? Have you ever been in a similar position when talking with God?
- After Jesus gives Peter His answer in verse 22, He gives a parable of a slave who owed an amount that could never be repaid by someone of his stature. Yet, the master forgives the debt. Has there been a time when you've been forgiven by God in a similar way? If so, how did you respond?
- Describe a time when you felt a motivation to offer forgiveness to others as you've also been forgiven.
- Read verses 28-30 again. This act of the slave displays his hypocrisy and his unwillingness to forgive others. How can you relate with this slave in the parable? Where in your life do you see an unwillingness to forgive?
- The master in the parable deals with the unforgiving slave severely after hearing of his actions in verse 32-34. What does this warning from Jesus reveal about God's character? How does this warning motivate you to forgive others now?

## LIFE APPLICATION



*Today we discussed what forgiveness looks like in the eyes of God. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection gives us a living hope to be forgiven of our sins, and we ought to extend the same forgiveness to others as we have received from God.*

*This week reflect upon who you could forgive in your life. Ask God to reveal anyone from your past or present who is in need of your forgiveness. Ultimately, ask God to reveal anyone in your life that needs God's forgiveness for salvation.*

*Use this chance to write down any names that come to mind and pray that the Holy Spirit would soften your heart as you extend forgiveness this week.*

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



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