

Relate-SON-Ship: Power To Forgive Study Guide

1. Lesson Summary & Objective

This lesson explores the Kingdom power of forgiveness as revealed by Jesus. While believers often focus on healing, faith, and spiritual authority, Jesus reveals that true greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven is demonstrated through the power to forgive. Forgiveness is not weakness but divine authority rooted in sonship. Sons reflect the nature of their Father—and the Father forgives.

Objective: To help participants understand that forgiveness is foundational to Kingdom authority, spiritual maturity, relational restoration, and mountain-moving faith.

2. Key Scriptures

- Luke 5:17–26 — The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.
- Matthew 18:1–4 — The greatest in the Kingdom becomes like a child.
- Matthew 18:21–35 — The parable of the unforgiving servant.
- Mark 11:22–26 — Faith, prayer, and the command to forgive.
- Matthew 18:18–20 — Binding, loosing, and agreement.

3. Lesson Points & Discussion

I. The Authority to Forgive — A Divine Power (Luke 5:17–26)

Jesus demonstrated that forgiveness and healing flow from the same divine authority. By forgiving the paralyzed man before healing him, He revealed that forgiveness is an expression of God's power. Sons operate in their Father's nature, and the Father forgives.

1. Biblical Fact: What did Jesus declare before healing the paralyzed man?
2. Application: How does viewing forgiveness as authority change how you approach offense?
3. Lesson Insight: What does this passage teach about the connection between healing and forgiveness?

II. Who Is the Greatest? (Matthew 18:1–4, 21–35)

Jesus defines greatness through humility and mercy. In the parable of the unforgiving servant, He teaches that those who receive mercy must extend it. Kingdom greatness is measured by the capacity to forgive.

4. Biblical Fact: What happened to the servant who refused to forgive?
5. Application: Where might pride be preventing you from extending forgiveness?
6. Lesson Insight: Why does Jesus connect forgiveness with greatness in the Kingdom?

III. Sons Forgive — The Progression of Sonship (Matthew 18; Romans 8:14 implied)

Forgiveness reflects sonship. The progression includes: Repent (acknowledge hardness), Receive (accept Christ's forgiveness), Recover (allow grace to restore), and Repeat (extend mercy to others). Forgiveness is foundational to Kingdom living.

7. Biblical Fact: Why is humility necessary for entering the Kingdom?
8. Application: Which step—Repent, Receive, Recover, or Repeat—is most challenging for you?
9. Lesson Insight: How does forgiveness reveal spiritual maturity?

IV. Mountain-Moving Faith Requires Forgiveness (Mark 11:22–26)

Jesus connects faith and forgiveness. Authority in prayer flows from a clean heart. Unforgiveness blocks Kingdom power and disrupts agreement with the Father's will.

10. Biblical Fact: What instruction does Jesus give immediately after teaching about speaking to mountains?
11. Application: Is there anyone you need to forgive to walk freely in faith?
12. Lesson Insight: Why does unforgiveness hinder spiritual authority?

V. The Master's Heart — Mercy and Grace (Matthew 18:27)

The master was moved with compassion and canceled the debt. Mercy withholds punishment; grace empowers transformation. Sons both receive mercy and extend grace, agreeing that the blood of Jesus is sufficient for all.

13. Biblical Fact: What moved the master to forgive the servant's debt?
14. Application: How can you reflect the Father's compassion in strained relationships?
15. Lesson Insight: What is the difference between mercy and grace, and why does it matter?

Conclusion — Kingdom Greatness Through Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not weakness—it is the power of sons. The greatest in the Kingdom are those who humble themselves, receive mercy, and release others as they have been released. If you want to walk in authority, mountain-moving faith, and true Kingdom greatness—learn to forgive.