



## Life Group Questions

### Matthew 6:7-15

Week 6 | March 17, 2024

Pastor Ravon Johnson

**ICEBREAKER:** How does the impact of our relationship with our earthly father affect our relationship with our Heavenly Father? explain why you think that's fair or unfair.

1. What stood out from Sunday's message? What encouraged, challenged, or intrigued you?

### Read Matthew 6:7-15

2. What truths do we learn about God from these verses? How should those truths impact how we pray and what we pray about?
3. Reflect on verse 12. What is the message Jesus is communicating? Discuss tips to overcome challenges to be able to forgive.
4. Reflect on verse 14. What is the warning Jesus is sharing? Does that mean our relationship with God is in jeopardy if we do not forgive others?

**LEADER NOTE:** Forgiveness is as indispensable to the life and health of the soul as food is for the body. So the next prayer is, *Forgive us our debts*. Sin is likened to a 'debt' because it deserves to be punished. But when God forgives sin, he remits the penalty and drops the charge against us. The addition of the words *as we also have forgiven our debtors* is further emphasized in verses [14](#) and [15](#) which follow the prayer and state that our Father will forgive us if we forgive others but will not forgive us if we refuse to forgive others. **This certainly does not mean that our forgiveness of others earns us the right to be forgiven.** It is rather that **God forgives only the penitent and that one of the chief evidences of true penitence is a forgiving spirit.** Once our eyes have been opened to see the enormity of our offence against God, the injuries which others have done to us appear by comparison extremely trifling. If, on the other hand, we have an exaggerated view of the offences of others, it proves that we have minimized our own. It is the disparity between the size of debts which is the main point of the parable of the unmerciful servant. Its conclusion is: 'I forgave you *all that debt* (which was huge) ...; should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ([33](#)).<sup>1</sup>

5. In today's message, Ravon said, "You will never grow beyond your ability to forgive." Explain why you think that's true or not true.
6. Read Matthew 18:21-35. As a group, summarize this passage with 3-5 "lessons learned."

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<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott and John R. W. Stott, [The Message of the Sermon on the Mount \(Matthew 5-7\): Christian Counter-Culture](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 149–150.

7. How did Ravon use the word R.E.A.L.? What word did each letter represent? What is meant by each word? [Righteous, Encouraging, Accountable, Loving]

8. Which of those four would you like to grow in? How can we help you towards that goal?

Ask for and encourage commitments people can make and ask others in the group to pray for them and follow up with them during the week.

As always, be prepared to set the pace with your example.