

# LETTING GO



## LETTING GO, PART 1: WHEN YOU CAN'T LOOK AWAY

We all want forgiveness, but we're not always eager to give it out. And for some of us, there are some very big hurts that have a grip on our lives. Even the very memory of those things brings up the emotions as fresh as they were when they were new. So how do you move on? How do you push past something where you can finally release it?

**BIG IDEA:** Choosing forgiveness allows us to look away and let go.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*\* Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. Tell of a time where you saw something and you should have looked away, but you wanted to keep watching? (*Maybe it was a wreck, something scary, or someone's accident fail.*)
2. How would you describe your relationship with forgiveness?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Matthew 18:21-35](#).*

*<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" <sup>22</sup> "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!" <sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. <sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. <sup>26</sup> "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' <sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. <sup>28</sup> "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. <sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. <sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. <sup>31</sup> "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."*

[Matthew 18:21-35 \(NLT\)](#)

4. What or who stands out to you most about the parable Jesus told? The King and his decision to forgive? The servant who begged the king for forgiveness? The second servant who begged the first servant for forgiveness?
5. How does this story leave you feeling? Angry? Outraged? Guilty?
6. Based on this parable does it change the way you feel about how God has forgiven you? Does it change the way you feel about forgiving others?
7. Who do you think was the most grateful? The first servant or the second servant?

8. Can you recall a time when you really needed to be forgiven- and received that forgiveness? How about a time when you really needed forgiveness and did not receive it? How did each of these times make you feel?
9. Has there been a time that you forgave someone who really needed it? Has there been a time when you have not forgiven someone? Why?
10. With Matthew 18 in mind, what does forgiveness look like? Do you believe there are steps to forgiveness? How did the King forgive? How did the servant forgive? How does God forgive us?
11. Does Forgiving Mean Forgetting? If we can't forget, how do we move forward in forgiveness? What steps do we take to avoid being hurt again?

## MOVING FORWARD

Because forgiveness is such a fundamental part of our relationship with Christ, the Bible has much to say about the dangers of bitterness and the delivering power of forgiveness. During your time with God this week, read the following passages and allow God's Word to deliver you from your bitterness and embrace forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-35, Mark 11:25, Job 5:2, Luke 6:28, Ephesians 4:32, Romans 12:17-21, 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1.

If there is someone in your life who you need to forgive, take the next steps toward forgiving that person this week. Follow the Biblical principles that Kim discussed in her message on how to forgive others by first praying for that person and then forgiving that person in the same way God forgave you.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

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*Matthew 18:34-35*