

Sermon Discussion Questions

God Is Relational - The Call To Forgive – Wes Parker
3 May 2026
Sermon Text: Matthew 18:21-35

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20-30 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In the message, **The Call To Forgive**, Pastor Wes explains why forgiveness isn't about letting someone off the hook but rather it's about letting ourselves out of a prison of torment. We also see that forgiveness isn't just something we receive but we are also required to give. Let's get going and learn more about how God is relational through the act of forgiveness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to ask the Holy Spirit to bring someone into your life to help you remove **your** grave clothes. Did the Holy Spirit bring anyone to mind for you to open up to? Has anyone opened up to you requesting your assistance in removing their grave clothes? (Remember, we were never intended to remove our grave clothes on our own; that's not God's plan).
2. What is something that stood out to you from the message this week?
3. How difficult is it for you to forgive someone once, let alone many, many times? What is it that makes it difficult for you to forgive? Why do you think Jesus tells Peter to stop worrying about the math, and to forgive without limits?
4. In his message, Pastor Wes broke this parable into three scenes.
Scene 1: Forgiveness Cancels The Debt
Scene 2: Forgiven But Not Forgiving
Scene 3: Delivered To A Prison Of Torment

Take a few moments and talk about each of these different scenes and what is happening. What would the original listeners of the parable have understood about the debts described and the act of forgiveness? Think about the enormity of the debt of the first servant. What parallel about God (as the master) does Jesus want the listener to understand?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. Do you have one special memory about your mother?
2. Use **one** word to describe how you feel spiritually. (Spiritually I feel ____ .)
3. If you're a coffee drinker, how do you take your coffee?

How much like the first servant are we when considering the sin debt we owe? How can you ever repay the debt of sin you owe? (You might have to think about this question for a minute).

5. From the message, what are some things that forgiveness is NOT? Along with what forgiveness is NOT, what are some hinderances to forgiveness? Why do you think these things, these lies, prevent us from forgiving others? How do we overcome these lies and demonstrate forgiveness?

6. Scene 2 (alternate ending): A Life of Generous Forgiveness and Blessing. What would happen if we not only offered forgiveness, but also prayed blessing on the person we just forgave? How might the Holy Spirit move in your life and their life if you not only forgave them but blessed them?

APPLICATION

Maybe you find yourself in a prison of torment because you have been unwilling to forgive someone. Spend time in prayer this week and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unforgiveness in your life, then act on what the Holy Spirit reveals. Offer forgiveness and blessing and find release for yourself. Step into another relational aspect of God.

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on, click on the NWC App, the website <https://nwckc.com>, or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Sermon study questions can also be found in all three locations.

Heart Of The House, 5 and 12 May, 6:30-8:30 pm, New Wine Church Building, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO. This 2-week class covers our Four Pillars and the core values we hold dear. Dinner is provided on both nights. Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+7dkrsn5>

Mother's Day at NWC, 10 May, 10:00 am, Antioch Middle School, 2100 NE 65th St, Gladstone, MO.

Kids Camp, 10-2, 8-10 July. Kids ages 4 through outgoing 5th Graders are invited to attend Kids Camp this summer at PowerPlay. Kids will learn about God while having fun with their friends. Camp cost is \$75 and includes a T-shirt, lunch, and an hour of play each day.

Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+7cr4cdt>

Volunteer at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+mffwbx9>

The PRESS Summer Youth Retreat, 21-24 July, BOLD conference in KC. Retreat cost is \$350 and is for incoming 6th graders - graduating 12th graders welcome! BOLD is a powerful gathering of students from across the nation who are passionate about pursuing God. Over four days, students will experience passionate worship, impactful messages, powerful moments of prayer, and opportunities to grow deeper in their faith alongside thousands of other young people.

Register at: <https://subsplash.com/newwinechurch/lb/ev/+sck84cc>

FINAL THOUGHT

When we do not give what we have received, we shut off the flow of grace.