



Stories that change everything.

CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE

JULY 21/22, 2018

SERMON STUDY

Read these verses before you begin your discussion: Matthew 18:21-35

Dive deeper into this week's message and passage from the Bible. Here are some questions to help you guide your group discussion.

In Matthew 18, Peter asks Jesus how many times he has to forgive someone. The Pharisees taught that the appropriate number of times to forgive someone was 3, so Peter doubles the number and adds one (7). Jesus tells a story to display that 7 times isn't nearly enough, but 70 times 7. How did this strike you? Did this surprise you?

The natural response to hurt is to get even, and the supernatural response to being hurt is forgiveness. We forgive not because the other person deserves it, but for the sake of reconciliation, and for our own joy and well-being. Is there anyone in your life who has hurt you, and even if it's been a very long time, the hurt is still very real for you? Have you forgiven him or her? If not, what has stopped you from forgiving him or her?

Forgiveness is not about keeping score, it's about losing count. It's about staying sweet versus becoming bitter. Every time we refuse to forgive, our hearts get harder. Think about the person you need to forgive. Are you willing to get open to what God can do through your pain and wounds? Are you willing to invite the Holy Spirit into this relationship?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at what we're being challenged with this week.

Day one: Matthew 18:21-22 | In the Kingdom of God, forgiveness goes further than we're comfortable with.

Day two: Matthew 18:23-29 | When someone sins against you, what is your immediate response?

Day three: Matthew 18:31-34 | When we become aware of our sin, withholding grace becomes impossible.

Day four: Matthew 18:35 | If you're storing up bitterness, confess it, release it, and give it to God.

Day five: Matthew 18:21-35 | Reflect: What do you notice that you didn't notice before? What is God teaching you through his Word? What are you going to do about it?

Visit tpcc.org/dailybiblereading to receive Daily Bible Reading in your inbox every morning.

QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

What is God saying to you through his word?

What are you going to do about it?