

# Expectations

September 20, 2020

**Scriptures:** Matthew 18:21-33

**Bottom Line:** When we forgive others, we show them what God is like.

## Great Expectations

When our expectations go unmet, we can feel like the other person owes us something. If we're expecting them to heal us or complete us, we're putting them into a debt they can never repay.

This makes it impossible to show and receive genuine love.

## Forgiveness Is the Way of Jesus

### Matthew 18

We show people who Jesus is and what His Kingdom is like by forgiving others in the same way that He forgave us.

### The Lord's Prayer

Jesus teaches us to pray that God would forgive our debts to Him by the same measure that we forgive the debts others have to us.

## Next Steps

1. Analyze your expectations
2. Don't look to people for healing that only God can give
3. Believe the best in people

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## LISTENING

Check in with everyone, see how the week has been. Give each person your attention, engage with what they're saying. If you're having trouble talking about your week, here are some things to talk about:

- What fears have you had this week?
- How did you overreact this week?
- How have you experienced God's goodness this week?
- What/who are you praying for this week?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the teaching? Were there any new ideas? What challenged you? Do you have any lingering questions?
2. What expectations do you carry into your relationships?
3. Do you think you're keeping someone else in your debt? Are you being kept in anyone else's debt?
4. What is the hardest part about forgiving someone, especially someone close to you?
5. What are you looking for from the people around you that only God can give you?

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