

LIFE Group Guide

Forgiveness

Pastor Dillon Mack

March 15, 2026



THE ORCHARD

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

Outline:

Part 1: The Debt of Our Sin

The debt of our sin is immeasurably large. (v. 24)

We can't pay the debt of our sin. (vv. 25-26)

The depth of God's mercy is inexhaustible. (v. 27)

Part 2: Dealing with Others' Debt Against Us

Others' debt against us is comparatively small. (v. 28)

Forgiveness is personally costly. (v. 28)

How we show mercy to others reflects how we have (or will) received it from God. (vv. 29-34)

Discussion Questions

1. What encouraged, nourished, or challenged you from this sermon? The scripture passage?
2. We often downplay our own sin, and we live in a culture that downplays sin. What biblical truths help us to see just how great our sin is? What truths from Psalm 51:3-5 help us understand the awfulness of sin? What other Bible passages come to mind for you when thinking about our sin?
3. Why are we unable to pay the debt of our sin? What passages or truths from the Bible show us that there is no way for us to earn our way out of our debt?
4. God's mercy is far beyond what we can imagine. How does Christ's death pay the debt of our sin? Why is the cross the greatest expression of God's mercy and compassion?
5. Other's debt is both comparatively small and personally costly to forgive. How are both things true? How does Jesus' death on the cross help soften our hearts for forgive others, and how does it encourage us to forgive even though it's costly?
6. What challenges you from Matthew 18:34? Why is forgiving others necessary for those who want to follow Jesus?