

# Choosing Forgiveness

## SERMON NOTES

- I. Home is . . .
- II. We all have pain
  - It does not help to compare our pain with others
- III. Matthew 18:21-35
  - Jesus doesn't want you to keep track
  - Forgiveness is a process
  - Forgiveness doesn't mean there aren't consequences or boundaries that need to be put in place
- IV. We want justice
  - What was done to us often blocks out what was done for us
  - The cross is the key
- V. Luke 17:4-6
  - It's not the quantity of our faith, but the kind that matters
  - Let Jesus do the work

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Sharing Life Together

1. Krispy Kreme or Spudnuts? Or something else?
2. What do you think about when you hear the word "home"?
3. Do you have, or have you had, a pet that you consider/ed part of your family?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - cont

### Reflecting on the Message Together

1. There is a lot about forgiveness that didn't get named in the message. What comes to mind? Take some time to talk about and reflect on those other aspects?
2. Read Matthew 18:26-27. Did the master give the servant what he asked for? What can we conclude about the nature of our Master?
3. What do you think caused the first servant to react the way he did once his debt was cancelled? We all, at some time or another, have behaved like that servant did. For you, why do you think that is?
4. Do you agree with the idea that the act of forgiving others is a process? Why or why not?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:24. Justice, indeed punishment, has already been poured out. How do we reconcile our desire for justice for what was done to us with the fact that justice has already been served?
6. In Luke 17:4-6, Ben didn't talk about the fact that Jesus is instructing a response to a brother or sister who asks for forgiveness. What about someone who doesn't ask for forgiveness? Does Jesus' point still apply? Why or why not?
7. Our ability to forgive begins where we recognize how much we've been forgiven. To keep this in view, we must continually come to Jesus, to the cross, to be reminded of his loving forgiveness. What pain do you need to bring to the cross so you can receive the gift of forgiveness that will overflow out of your heart and into your home?
8. Everyone is different. Everyone's pain is different. What we have in common is that we all have pain. What might be the first (or second or third or fourth, etc.) step for you in the process of forgiving?
  - a. Is there anything for which you need to seek forgiveness from someone else?