

All I Want For Christmas is... To Extend the Gift of Grace



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | Matthew 18:23-35

WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What's your favorite heartwarming Christmas movie/story that is about giving (especially to someone who may not deserve or expect the gift)?
- ◆ Describe a time when you were excited because you found just the right gift for someone you love. You knew it was something that they really needed and/or would touch them deeply.
- ◆ When have you experienced unexpected or undeserved grace from someone in your family, a friend or a total stranger? What was that like?

DISCUSSION

1. Read [Matthew 18:23-25](#). Who does the master in the story represent? What does this parable tell you about God?
2. Read [Matthew 18:26-27](#). The amount the servant owed was equal to millions of dollars. What did the servant do when he heard the king's sentence? How did the king respond? Do you think the servant could ever pay back his debt?
3. How did the king extend grace to the servant? What does the king's response tell you about God's grace?
4. Read [Matthew 18:28-31](#). What did the servant do with the grace he had received? The debt the fellow servant owed the forgiven servant was equal to a couple of dollars. How did those watching this encounter feel? What did they do?
5. Why do you think the forgiven servant responded this way to the one who owed him a couple of dollars?
6. Why do you think it is easier to accept grace than to extend it to others? What stops you from extending grace to those who don't deserve forgiveness?
7. Read [Matthew 18:32-35](#). How did the master feel about the servant's unforgiveness? What had the master expected the servant would do with the mercy and forgiveness he had received? What does this story tell you about the servant's heart?
8. What does God expect us to do for people who need our forgiveness? What kind of heart for others does God want us to have? What is our motivation for showing forgiveness?
9. Read [Ephesians 4:31-32](#) and [John 13:35](#). What is the purpose for forgiving others? How does extending the gift of grace through forgiveness to others draw them closer to God? How does extending grace to others draw you closer to God? What barriers are removed?
10. Why is it important for you to start extending grace to others immediately? Who is the first person you can reach with God's grace? You may need to extend grace more than once. Matthew 18:21-22 tells us that forgiveness doesn't have an expiration date and our efforts to extend grace shouldn't end until the Master returns to reward His servants. What can you do today to show others that you are a disciple of Jesus?

PRAYER

- ◆ Grace and forgiveness are gifts we all need, but don't deserve. Ask your community group to pray that God would help you discern ways to extend the gift of grace as you gather to celebrate Christmas this year, and to give you the strength to do so, even with those who deserve it the least.