

This weekend, we continued in our series, *Disciple: The Short Stories of Jesus*, and looked at The Parable of the Unforgiving Steward—learning the importance of God’s forgiveness in our lives. We learned what it means to receive forgiveness from God and to offer it to others.

A quick reminder: You should have received an email from the Life Groups Ministry with a link to your group evaluation. Please take a few minutes to complete it if you haven't already.

PAUSE

As you begin this study, meditate on **Colossians 3:12-14**. Invite the Lord to help you live a life marked by His forgiveness.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

READ

This week, we are reading pages **177-190** of Dallas Willard’s *The Scandal of the Kingdom*. To access the reading, you can scan the QR code below, download a PDF of these pages available on our website at **rocky-peak.org/disciple-the-short-stories-of-jesus**, or pick up a hard copy at Starting Point on the Worship Center Patio during weekend services.



STUDY

- This weekend, we learned that *Forgiveness Is A Big Deal* in the life of a disciple. Read the Parable of the Unforgiving Steward in **Matthew 18:21-35**.
 - What stands out as meaningful to you from Jesus’ parable?
 - Have you walked the path of choosing to forgive someone who hurt you? How did you find freedom on the other side of forgiveness?
- In *The Scandal of the Kingdom*, Willard writes a powerful chapter on the miracle of forgiveness. What are your top two takeaways from this week’s reading?
- Joel taught us that *Forgiveness is not about ...*
 - Saying It’s Okay*
 - Reconciliation (Necessarily)*
 - Forgetting*
 - Have you ever wrestled with these principles or had misunderstandings about what forgiveness is and isn’t? How so?
- This weekend, we also learned three principles that help us understand what forgiveness is. *Forgiveness is about...*
 - Letting Go*
 - Experiencing Freedom*
 - Trusting God*
 - How have you experienced any of these principles through an act of forgiveness?
- Willard writes on **page 188**:

It’s always important to distinguish between earning and receiving. While you can do nothing to earn your salvation, there is something you can do to receive it, and you’re so much better off for doing it. A gift is not imposed on you, forced on you, or fastened on you somehow. A gift requires reception.

- a. Our ability to offer forgiveness to others is tied to our receiving forgiveness from Jesus first. Do you feel you have received the gift of forgiveness offered to you by Jesus? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you ever wrestle with the idea that you've been forgiven? How so?
6. Have you ever experienced the dangers of holding on to unforgiveness? Explain.
- a. How would you describe the negative effects of carrying any bitterness, resentment, or anger in your life?
7. **Read Psalm 37.** How does this Psalm encourage you to trust God for healing and justice in your life?

RESPOND

We ended the message with a time of communion and a chance to consider the price of our own forgiveness. In remembering Jesus' forgiveness for us, we are invited to examine our hearts and any unforgiveness we might be holding on to. Take a few minutes now to invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to you anyone you need to forgive and release to Him.

We've included two prayers to guide you through the process of forgiveness. Forgiveness is a choice, a decision of the will. It's not about waiting until you feel like forgiving. After you choose to forgive, choose to bless them and pray for them—following Jesus' command to “bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:28).

- “Lord, with your help, I choose to forgive (person's name) for (name the sin), even though it made me feel (name the feelings associated with it).”
- Then pray a blessing over them. “Lord, I choose to bless (person's name) ...”