**What’s Forgiveness Worth? Leader Notes**

**Matt. 18:21-35**

**HOOK**

**1. What was your best/worst day this past week?**

**2. Would you say you are a person who is quick to forgive?**

**BOOK/LOOK**

**3. Read Matthew 18:21-22. How does Peter’s question set up the need for teaching through a story? Why do you think Peter suggested forgiving others up to 7 times?** (Rabbinical teaching of the day suggested forgiving people up to 3 times. Peter knew Jesus’ teaching was more stringent on holiness and more compassionate on grace.)

**4. Read Matt. 18:23-35. Is there anything shocking to you in the story?**

**5. How does the size of the debt help us understand this story?** (10,000 talents was 10,000 years of wages; 100 denarii was 100 days of wages. The amount forgiven by the king was intentionally astronomical.)

**6. Who’s the king in this story?** (God) **Who’s the unmerciful servant?** (anyone who refuses to forgive others)

**7. How does the picture of God in Matt. 18:35 make you feel?**

**8. How would you sum up the message of this parable?**

**a. Forgive and forget**

**b. Forgive or face punishment**

**c. Forgive because God forgave you**

**d. Other –**

**9. What’s the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?** (Reconciliation is a journey of many steps, each of which can be extremely difficult, all of which are to be taken carefully and thoughtfully. You can forgive unilaterally; reconciliation requires two willing parties.)

**TOOK**

**10. Why do people hang on to unforgiveness?** (self-protection against further hurt).

**11. What are some behaviors that indicate unforgiveness?** (Silent treatment, guilting others, verbal jabs).

**12. What are some physical symptoms that may accompany unforgiveness?** (Ulcers, high blood pressure, migraines).

**13. How do we get the power to forgive others?**  (Look to the cross, the example of Jesus, the Holy Spirit enables us to forgive).

**14. Read Psalm 130:3,4. Thank God for His forgiveness.**

**15. Does God’s forgiveness motivate you to forgive others? Read Col. 3:13 and Eph. 4:32.**

**16. Is forgiveness a choice? Can you forgive others even when you don’t feel like it?**

**17. Check out the video by Matthew West on Forgiveness** - Youtube MattStone712