

## Bible Study 9 – Jesus’ example of forgiveness – Matthew 18:21-35

*Imagine you are on a long hike, and each time someone wrongs you, you pick up a heavy rock and put it in your backpack. Over time, your backpack becomes so heavy that you can barely move. Every step is a struggle, and you find it hard to enjoy the journey. One day, you meet a wise guide who tells you to empty your backpack. Reluctantly, you take out the rocks one by one, and as you do, you feel lighter and freer. Forgiveness is like emptying that backpack. Holding onto grudges weighs us down, but when we forgive, we are set free as our burden is lighter and we are closer to God.*

<b>The context</b>	Jesus began His ministry in Galilee. He taught about the coming kingdom of God and healed many. He called 12 disciples to follow Him. When the Jewish leaders began to oppose Him, He began to teach in parables. Then He predicted His rejection, death and resurrection. And He taught lessons about responsibility to others: payment of the temple tax; rivalry over greatness in the kingdom; waring against causing others to sin; and treatment and forgiving of a sinning brother or sister.
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### ***PART 1 Read & write each section in your own words – Matthew 18:21-35***

Q & A (v.21-22)	
Forgiveness (v.23-27)	
Mercilessness (v.28-31)	
Punishment (v.32-35)	

### ***PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage***

***1. What does it teach about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?***

***2. What does it teach about people?***



***3. Summarize a key verse in your own words.***

***4. In your opinion, what is the main point being taught in these passages?***

***5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?***

***6. When a Christian sins against us, we should forgive them in our hearts (Ephesians 4:32). What are we to do next (Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3-4)?***

***7. Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?***

Jesus told His disciples not to be hypocrites by being unwilling to forgive little when they had been forgiven much by God. Instead of being hypocrites, we are to forgive others as we have been forgiven by God.

## Obey

Since God's word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?  
What must I do to obey?

I will
I will
I will

Questions to help me apply this study to myself

- Is there a *SIN* for me to avoid?
- Is there a *PROMISE* from God for me to claim?
- Is there an *EXAMPLE* for me to follow?
- Is there a *COMMANDMENT* or *MODEL* for me to follow?

## Share

Who will I tell about this Bible passage?

Who needs help? What can we do to help over the next two weeks?

Person	How will I help them?

## Prayer

Date:

One thing you are thankful for.

One thing that's bothering you or causing stress.

Is there anything this group can do to help you?

Person	Prayer points

