



**Wrestling With God's Word**  
**Wk 4/4: Forgive, Even When It's Hard**  
**October 24 & 25, 2020**

**LEADER PREP**

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 18:21-35

**THINK ABOUT THIS**

During the teenage phase, it is common that popular opinion is more important than any authoritative truth. But we know that popular opinion comes and goes – sometimes it's right and sometimes it's wrong. But God's Word remains true through it all. And not only is it true, but our lives are better when we live in it's wisdom. Take some time to reflect: How can you inspire your students to embrace God's truth as the most important? What inspires you too – in your head and in your heart? What has following God's Word cost you? Was it worth it? What have you gained following in God's wisdom?

The **overall main point** for this series is that **when wrestling with God's Word, we can trust God's wisdom and character.**

The **overall series goals** of small group are for students to realize:  
(1) **Every Bible verse is good for us and has authority in our lives.** (based on 2Tim 3:16)  
(2) **Our lives are better and have greater purpose when we live in God's wisdom.** (based on 2Tim 3:17)

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

**CONVERSATION GUIDE**

**MAIN POINT**

**Don't hold back on forgiving others because Jesus didn't hold back in forgiving you.**

**GET THEM TALKING**

What are some reasons people hold back from forgiving others?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How can it be easier sometimes to hold grudges rather than forgive?
2. Are some things easier to forgive than others?

**HAND OUT THE T.R.A.I.N. CARDS. (OR FOR VIRTUAL SMALL GROUPS, SCREENSHARE [THE SLIDE ON YOUR SCREEN.](#))**

Have a different student read each point to review. Ok, let's train!

**READ MATTHEW 18:21-35 & answer the following questions:**

1. What do you like about this Scripture?
2. What doesn't you like in this Scripture?
3. How does Jesus treat us when we wrong Him?
4. How does Jesus ask us to treat others when they wrong us?
5. What can keep us from forgiving someone else?
6. How can we overcome those things?

**PRAYER GUIDE 1**

Encourage students to take some silent moments in prayer and reflection on these three questions:

- (1) God, is there someone I need to forgive?
- (2) God, is there someone I need to apologize to and ask for forgiveness from?
- (3) God, I'm sorry I've sinned and I ask for your forgiveness.

**NEXT STEP**

**THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:** Say a prayer to God on your own this week, thanking Him for His forgiveness and asking Him to help you forgive others.

**THIS SERIES CHALLENGE:** Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17. We encourage you to do it as a group! Final week for this challenge.

**PRAYER GUIDE 2**

Ask your students for their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

## SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

### Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” <sup>22</sup> “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. <sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. <sup>26</sup> “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ <sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. <sup>28</sup> “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

<sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. <sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. <sup>31</sup> “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

<sup>35</sup> “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”