

October 14, 2018

**In Sync with Jesus on Forgiving**

Matthew 18:15-22

### **OPENING** (10-15 minutes)

- What is one of the worst things a sibling or close friend did to you when you were growing up?
- What insights from Sunday's message did you find most helpful? Most troubling?

### **CLARIFYING THE TEXT** (20-30 minutes)

*Read the passage aloud in your group. Use the questions below to dig in to Jesus' words.*

- Where do you see yourself in the text?
- What is the relational context for this teaching? When should someone consider you to be their brother or sister? (verse 15)
- How would you paraphrase the steps Jesus gives for dealing with conflict?
- The word "listen" is used several times in this text. How do you recognize when a person is receptive and ready to listen? When they refuse to listen?
- How does awareness of our own sin impact our ability to forgive others?
- Have someone read aloud the parable in Matthew 18:23-35. Imagine yourself in the story. Who do you feel the most connection with? What is Jesus emphasizing about forgiveness?

*Additional texts to consider:*

- Matthew 6: 14-15
- Luke 17:3-4
- Galatians 6:1-5

### **OBEYING: How can you be more in sync with Jesus?** (20 minutes)

- What one step in forgiveness can you commit to this week? How can the group support you in this step?
- DURING THIS WEEK: Reflect on your own experiences with forgiveness. Were you wronged by someone and able to forgive? Or were you the offender and someone forgave you? Or when have you found it difficult or been unable to forgive? Journal and talk with God about this.

**PRAYING:** *Close your group in prayer for each other to keep in sync with Jesus.*

