



Part 4: God's Great Gamble

Scripture Focus: Luke 5:17-26, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 23:32-34, Romans 5:6-8, Matthew 18:21-22

INTRODUCTION - ICEBREAKER

Q1. If God agreed to answer one question for you, what would you ask?
(Leader: share a few of the humorous options from the Sunday message to warm up the group)

Examples from the message:

- Why do women say they're fine when they're clearly not?
- What does a man think about... really?
- Could You maybe help the Jaguars this year?
- Why does my doctor's office still use fax machines?
- What happens if you remove the tag from a mattress?

Q2. What's one thing you've always wondered about forgiveness—whether theological or practical?

SCRIPTURE READING - MATTHEW 18:21-22 (Peter's Question)

Q3. Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive someone?" Why do you think he asked that? What's behind a question like that?

Q4. Jesus answered: Not seven times, but seventy-seven times. What's the point of that number? How does it challenge how we naturally think about forgiveness?

STORY 1 - THE MAN ON THE MAT (LUKE 5:17-26)

Q5. What's surprising about how Jesus interacts with the paralyzed man?

- What's the first thing Jesus offers?
- Why does that matter?

Q6. What does this story teach us about Jesus' authority and God's priorities?

STORY 2 - THE WOMAN AT THE BANQUET (LUKE 7:36-50)

Q7. Jesus tells a parable about two people who owed a debt. What is the point of that story?

Q8. Read Luke 7:47 aloud: "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

- What do you think Jesus means?
- Have you experienced this in your own life or seen it in others?

STORY 3 - JESUS ON THE CROSS (LUKE 23:32-34)

Q9. Jesus prays "Father, forgive them..." while being crucified.

- What does that say about who God is?
- How does that shape the way we think about forgiveness?

APPLICATION - ROMANS 5:6-8

Q10. Read Romans 5:8: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- How is this kind of forgiveness different than what we're used to?
- What does that mean for how we live?

Weekly Challenge: Memorize Romans 5:8

> "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Take a few minutes to practice as a group, or encourage everyone to set a reminder to review it daily this week.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Q11. Is there someone you've had a hard time forgiving—or someone you need to forgive again?

Q12. Is there an area where you've struggled to receive God's forgiveness?

- What's holding you back?

Q13. What might change in your family, workplace, or friend group if you lived more fully as someone who is forgiven?

NEXT STEPS

Close with this prayer (invite someone to read it aloud or allow time for silent reflection):

- > Heavenly Father, I'm like the man on the mat and the woman at the banquet. I need to be forgiven of my sin.
- > I don't deserve it. I haven't earned it.
- >
- > I believe Jesus paid my debt when he died for me.
- > I receive your forgiveness.
- > I surrender my life to you. I want to follow you.
- >
- > I'm transferring my trust from any good things I'm doing, to what Jesus has done for me at the cross.
- > Because the tomb is empty, I know that Jesus conquered death on my behalf, so that I can truly live.

Final Prompt:

- > What's one step you can take this week to reflect the grace of Jesus to someone in your life?

Facilitator Tips:

- Be sensitive—conversations around forgiveness can be tender.
- Don't rush to solve emotional pain. Listen well.
- Make room for quiet moments, especially after scripture or prayer.

Thank your group for showing up and being open. Encourage them to walk in grace this week!