

THE GAMES WE PLAY

The Games We Play—Week Two: Sorry (Repentance)

CONNECT: In this series we're highlighting some classic board games. What's your favorite and why? What board games did your family play growing up?

GROW:

1. **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do the text bring to your mind?
2. It seemed like Peter was thinking, "Seven *times* is really generous, right?" How can you relate to his thinking? What was Jesus challenging about Peter's thinking on forgiveness?
3. In the parable Jesus tells, scholars estimate that it would have taken the man 165,000 years to pay the king back. But then he throws a man in jail who owes him 3 1/2 months worth of wages. Why would Jesus use such a large number? In one sentence, what would you say is the main point of the passage?
4. Why do you think Jesus wants us to forgive others for the wrongs they have done for us? What are the alternatives practiced by people who do not forgive? What are the outcomes of those alternatives?
5. When we need to be forgiven for something, forgiveness is beautiful and we want mercy. Yet, oftentimes when we need to forgive someone else, we are hesitant because we want justice. Have you felt this? Jon said, ***Forgiving others is the most difficult thing God asks us to do.*** Would you agree?
6. He followed that by saying, ***Forgiving others is the most difficult thing God has to do.*** The cross proves that a price had to be paid for our sinful choices and Jesus paid that price for us. How does the practice of thinking about all that God has forgiven make it easier to forgive someone when they say or do things that hurt us?
7. If we wait until we *feel* like forgiving someone, we'll never do it. Forgiving someone is a calculated decision we make; it's a choice to *not* be bitter and angry. Discuss the truth that "forgiveness is not a feeling".
8. Forgiveness is a choice. It is hard. But it is necessary—and it leads to restoration and healing. However, our memory can be our friend and our enemy. Discuss the truth that "forgiveness is not forgetting".
9. **Read 2 Kings 24:25.** "*Never before had there been a _____ like _____ who turned to the LORD with all their heart and there has never been one like him since.*" Fill in the blank with your occupation and name. decide how you're going to partner with God to keep your heart and mind pure.

PRAY: Spend time thanking God that the forgiveness He offers through Jesus is permanent and complete. God forgave, He is forgiving, and He will forgive. When we receive it, we are then able to extend it. Talk to God about a specific situation you need to extend forgiveness to someone about and ask God to help you do it. As a group, commit to being forgiven people who forgive people.

NEXT: Usually, when this parable is read and forgiveness is discussed, someone in particular comes to mind. Forgive that person that you know you need to forgive. Make it a habit this week to ***apologize quickly and forgive quickly.***