

# THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

## EPISODE 3: THE CALL TO FORGIVENESS

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

---

#### Main Points

*Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:*

- Forgiveness = a debt that has been cancelled
- God offers us forgiveness; when God forgives us, it changes us. It causes us to love him and others.
- If you have been forgiven much, you love much
- We all need to *be forgiven* and we all need to *be forgiving*. If we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us.

### EXPLORING THE STORY

---

#### ◀ Look Back

*Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:*

##### 1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

##### 2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

##### 3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ **Last week...** Jesus taught that we need to repent: to agree with God that his way is right and ours is wrong. We repent when we change direction and begin seeking to follow God's plan for our lives. Only those who repent can enter God's kingdom.

## ▲ Look Up

*Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.*

### 4. Setting the Stage

“ As Jesus traveled and taught he announced that God's kingdom had come, bringing a whole new way of life. All men should repent and enter the kingdom and all men should live by the kingdom's values, including the value of forgiveness.

As we read these stories, be thinking about these things:

- What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?
- How does forgiveness change us?

### 5. Read **Luke 7.36-50** and then discuss:

- “
- What did Simon see when he looked at the woman? What did Jesus see?
  - Why did Jesus reprove Simon?
  - What does Jesus teach us about forgiveness in this story?

### Read **Matthew 18.21-35** and then discuss:

- “
- What do you like about the story? What questions do you have?
  - What was Peter's question at the beginning? (vs. 21)
  - The king forgave his servant by cancelling a debt of 10,000 talents (that's \$10 billion today!). The servant was unwilling to do the same for his fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii (\$14,000). Who reported the servant's stinginess to the king?
  - What does Jesus teach us about forgiveness in this story?
  - How are these stories similar? How are they different?

## ► Look Ahead

*Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.*

### 6. Implications and Applications

- “
- What do these stories teach us about the attitude we should have towards other people?
  - Has God cancelled your debt? Do you understand and appreciate how much you owed him?
  - Are you willing to do for others what God has done for you?
  - How will you obey the teaching of Jesus this week? Is there someone you need to forgive?

### 7. Closing Prayer