

Once Upon a Kingdom – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, 6.16.2013

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If you need an ice breaker to start out with try this one!

The aim of the game is to talk for one minute on a given subject. You announce the topic and a member of the group is randomly selected to speak for one minute. Use a pack of cards to randomly select i.e. person who draws the lowest number. Choose subjects to stimulate the imagination and which may be amusing. Put a stopwatch on each person to see how long they last before drying up! Subjects might include, my earliest memories, my favorite computer game, why beans are good for you, 10 things you can do with potatoes, Alligator wrestling, pre-millennialism (no, not really!)

Ask someone to read Matthew 18:21-35 out loud for the group.

An atheist once said during a dispute with a Catholic priest and a pastor from an evangelical fundamentalist church that he thought the church should be a place where they “keep grace on tap” as opposed to what he thought most churches were like. What does that phrase, “keep grace on tap” mean to you?

1. The debt the man owed to the ruler was approximately \$12,000,000 in today’s money! Can you think of a time when you were forgiven of something you owed that you would have to call extravagant?
2. The wealthy ruler or king demonstrated an extravagant grace toward the one in debt to him. Some have said that, “grace doesn’t keep score”. Does that statement apply to this passage and what do you think about it?
3. The servant of the servant who was forgiven a huge debt only owed him approximately \$17.00! How do you think you would have treated others who were in debt to you after being forgiven go great a debt as \$12,000,000?
4. What was the unjust servant’s biggest problem?
5. The key verse in this story is Matthew 18:33 – Ask someone to read it out loud again. What do you think Jesus is trying to convey here?
6. How should meditating on the great extent to which God has forgiven us affect the way we are able to forgive others? On the flip side how is our inability to forgive others the wrongs they have done us directly related to our not reflecting on this truth about God’s great forgiveness toward us?
7. See verse 34 – Can someone share a time when they felt tortured because of an unforgiving attitude they chose to harbor toward someone else?
8. How does God’s forgiveness toward us empower us to forgive others?
9. Practically speaking, how do we “keep grace on tap” at Bent Tree? What would that look like? How do we do it personally?