

# Reconciliation

Matthew 18:21-35 (preached on May 10, 2009)

*Note to Discussion Leaders: Please remember to start by reading the Bible passage as a group. While this is a “sermon discussion” guide, it’s vital that our reflections and applications are grounded in scripture. In a similar vein, do your best to help group members to link their discussion points to the scripture text. Don’t skip over all the questions that invite the group to observe and interpret specific verses in the passage.*

**READ Matthew 18:21-35 (OT reading: Psalm 32)**

## REFLECT

1. **Warm-up.** Consider the following statement: “*Forgiveness is the most difficult thing in the world to do, and everybody stinks at it!*” Why is forgiveness so hard?
2. What do you think were Peter’s intentions when asked Jesus about forgiveness in v. 21? How did Jesus respond? What are some ways you rationalize your unwillingness to forgive or justify your writing off a relationship as “dysfunctional” and unsalvageable?
3. In your own words, summarize the parable that Jesus tells (vv. 23-35). How does Jesus convey the enormity of the servant’s debt (v. 24)?
4. Think of a person that you’ve been struggling to forgive. (It may be difficult for you to share about this with others, but consider how you can process this relationship with the community.)

