



# THE **master** OF **forgiveness**

---

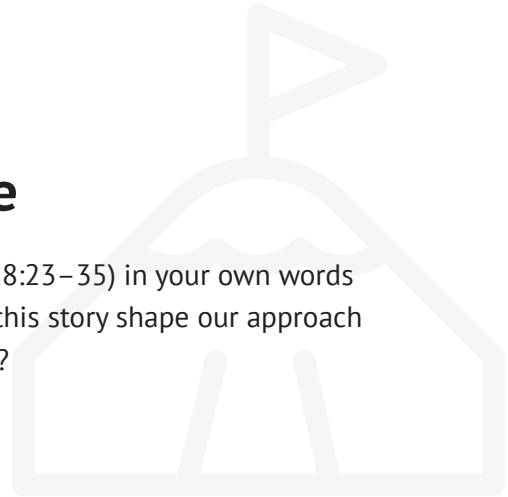
**SUMMARY** | It's a famous question: "Lord, how often should I forgive someone if they sin against me?" And people often quote Jesus' words, "not seven times, but seventy-seven times," as the answer. But this quotation is incomplete. Jesus answers Peter's question with a story to illustrate the heart of God—the Master of Forgiveness—and how God's approach to forgiveness should inform our approach to forgiving those who sin against us.

## This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 18:15–22. What is the context of Peter's question of how many times he should forgive?
2. What story does Jesus tell to answer Peter's question about how many times he should forgive? (Matthew 18:23–35).
3. The phrase, "Have patience with me and I will repay you" is repeated in this story. Who are the two people who say this phrase, and what happens to each?
4. In Jesus' story there's an audience who sees all that happens, including how one servant treats another harshly. Who might be watching how we, as Christians, treat one another? How can our graciousness and forgiveness show the world who God is?
5. What is forgiveness, and why is it so important for us to show forgiveness to one another?

## Challenge

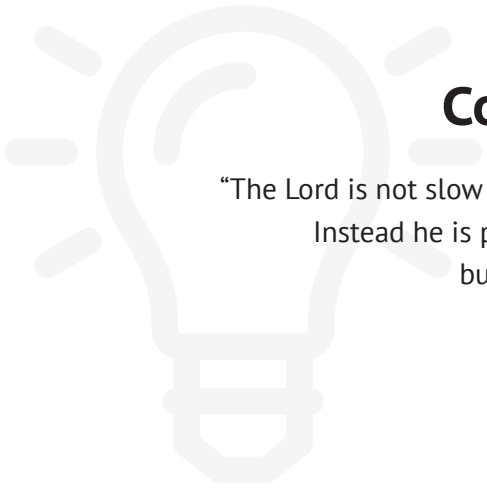
Retell Jesus' parable of forgiveness (Matthew 18:23–35) in your own words using a contemporary illustration. How should this story shape our approach to forgiving others?



## Commit To Memory

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”.

2 Peter 3:9 NIV



## Prayer

God, thank You for Your generous and gracious forgiveness. Help me to be someone who also forgives others as generously and graciously as You forgive me.

Amen.

