



# G R O U P

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### W A R M - U P

Read Matt. 18:21-35. Pastor Larry in his message stated Jesus wanted us to remind ourselves daily in prayer that forgiving is what it means to follow Jesus and that God's forgiveness of us is directly tied to our ability to forgive others as well. How does that adjust your ability to forgive?

### A S K

- Pastor Larry reminds us, that Jesus's teaching on forgiveness is counter to our nature that says when somebody wrongs us, we want to get them back. If you were to be honest with yourself, have you been guilty of that?
- Read Genesis 4 and Matt. 18:21-22. Pastor Larry stated that the world's unbridled revenge is to be matched by Jesus' followers becoming unbridled with mercy and the ability to forgive. Where have you struggled to become unbridled with mercy and the ability to forgive?
- Pastor Larry stated that Forgiveness is **NOT** Ignoring or Forgetting, Condoning or Excusing, Tolerating or allowing further abuse. Where have you been guilty of thinking forgiveness **DID** mean those things?
- Pastor Larry stated that Jesus locates forgiveness in your heart and it's a choice to give up your right to retaliate, a choice to change your heart's attitude towards the offender, a choice to remember that God has forgiven you, and a choice to offer compassion instead of hatred. Where have you struggled to make those choices?
- Pastor Larry reminded us that Jesus is not asking us to keep ourselves in a dangerous or abusive situation. Be honest with yourself, are you in one of those situations of abuse and you don't have anyone to talk to because you don't have someone safe? If so, please let us connect you to people who are qualified to help you. Megan@ngate.org

### ➤ P R A Y