

FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE NEW YEAR
STUDY GUIDE

Grace for a Forgiving Heart

Matthew 18.15-35

WELCOME & SHARING

Share announcements...

- Ash Wednesday Worship Gathering | Wednesday, March 1st 7p

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day season of Lent which is to be a season of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Join us as we gather to worship together. Children are more than welcome to participate in worship but there will only be childcare for children 4 and under. RSVP for childcare by 2/23 on The City.

- Give & Take Free Sale | Saturday, April 1st 9-11a

Please join us for a great opportunity to declutter and GIVE outgrown women and children's clothes, toys, shoes, accessories, etc. and bless others in the community. Please donate the above items in the weeks before the event outside of the broiler room (basement). *All* are invited to attend (invite friends, neighbors, coworkers) to the free sale, whether you have given or not, and TAKE what you need. Everything is FREE! Please see the City for opportunities to serve! <http://bit.ly/2kmwbsy>

- Sandra McCracken Concert | 7p Friday, April 7th

We have the joy of hosting Sandra McCracken in concert at the New City Church building. For those interested, Sandra will be doing a discussion/Q&A re: worship, arts, culture, songwriting, etc. at 5p. Tickets for the concert are \$15 pre-sale, \$18 @ the door, \$30 for the Discussion/Q&A and concert. Spread the word and visit the City to learn more and for the link to purchase tickets: <http://bit.ly/2lunbCA>

- New City Men's Retreat | April 21st & 22nd

Men join us for our inaugural Men's Retreat @ Hannon's Camp America (yes it's really called Camp America). Check the website for details. You need to register online.

Opener Question: What is something you have always wanted to do, but are too scared to do it?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

In these first couple months of 2017, we'll be journeying through a series from Matthew 14-18. We'll study Jesus' teaching as he lays down some "first principles" for the disciples as they embark on a life of mission.

As you're making your own resolutions and dreaming your dreams for 2017, this series will help you get foundations in place which you can build on throughout the year.

Read: Matthew 18.15-35.

1. Why is forgiveness such an important, "foundational" concept in Christianity, not only between God and us, but with each other?
2. What does forgiveness usually look like in your day-to-day lives? How does it happen on TV or in the popular culture? Does forgiveness usually precede restoration?
3. What are some of your natural reflexes when someone sinned against you or hurt you?
4. Jesus started the parable by saying "the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants" (v. 23), what does this tell you about God?
5. Jesus' parable in verses 23-35 is somewhat comical, but it also consists many different emotions. What other emotions do you see in this story, and who are those emotions associated with? Which emotion do you identify with the most?
6. What did you notice between the pleads of the two servants (v. 26 & v. 29)? Are they equally sincere? How would you plead with God and plead with others for mercy?
7. What does true forgiveness look like to you, the kind of forgiveness that comes "from your heart" (v. 35)?
8. What are the four practical steps for forgiveness that Ryan suggested at the end of the sermon? What other practical steps can you share with the group?
9. NEIGHBORING EXPERIMENT OF THE MONTH: Find a common interest with neighbors and get together for the live event (i.e. Oscars, Daytona 500, college basketball, etc.)

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together: You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.