

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFYING UNFORGIVENESS

As you reflect on the ways you've been offended,  
do you find any of these statements to be true?

- Every time I think of (person or offense), I still feel angry.
- I have a subtle, secret desire to see (person) pay for what he (she/they) did to me.
- Deep in my heart, I wouldn't mind if something bad happened to the person(s) who hurt me.
- I sometimes find myself telling others how (person) hurt me.
- If (person's) name comes up, I am more likely to say something negative about him/her than something positive.
- I cannot thank God for (person).

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## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:21-35

### THE STORY:

- The servant owed an unpayable debt
- The king had pity and forgave the debt
- The servant found someone who owed him a small debt
- The servant refused patience and forgiveness and set him away
- The king held the servant accountable

### THE LESSON:

1. We must extend the forgiveness we've received
2. Forgiven people forgive
3. We always have to forgive everyone for everything every time

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**THE CRISIS OF FORGIVENESS:**

*Luke 17:3-4 - So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."*

→ Forgiveness is the decision to release another person from the obligation that resulted when they injured you.

**THE PROCESS OF FORGIVENESS:**

*Proverbs 17:9 - Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*

*Romans 12:19 - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

*Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

*Psalms 103:12 - as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

*1 Peter 2:23 - When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

*1 Peter 3:8-9 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*

1. I won't bring it up to you anymore
2. I won't bring it up to others anymore
3. I won't bring it up to myself anymore

Week 2: Confronting Rationalizations

Week 3: The Danger of Refusing

Week 4: Forgiveness vs. Reconciliation

Week 5: What To Do After You Forgive