

WE'RE SO GLAD

YOU'RE HERE TODAY!

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The team at the Westwood Kids desk is happy to help you get them connected. For more info on the great things happening here, check out westwoodcc.org.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE Our hearing assistance devices are designed to work alone or in conjunction with a hearing aid. Let an usher know if you would like one.



BECOME A MEMBER OF WESTWOOD

Join us for the Membership Seminar. You will learn about our values, mission and beliefs and get all your questions answered from leaders and staff. Register online. **Wednesdays, August 8 and 15, 7:00–9:00pm, Chanhassen Campus**

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: Matthew 18:21–35

Part 1: An Honest Question

Matthew 18:21–22

The question behind the question:

Part 2: A Call to Remember the Weight of Forgiveness

Matthew 18:23–27

Part 3: A Refusal to Give Away

Matthew 18:28–31

Part 4: The Consequences of Withholding

Matthew 18:32–35

For personal reflection:

How does this story stir you?

How does this shape your personal journey?

Share your answers with us on Westwood's social media!

Tell Me A Story • July 15, 2018 • Brian Suter

THE WEIGHT OF FORGIVENESS: THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

BIBLE READING PLAN

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. These verses are chosen by our pastors and designed to complement the Sunday message.

You can find it on our app or at westwoodcc.org/readingplan

- 1 John 1:5-10
- Psalm 130
- Mark 11:24-26
- Matthew 6:9-15
- Luke 6:27-37

TELL ME A STORY

Tell Me a Story #4

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: Matthew 18:21-35

The Weight of Forgiveness

1. In this summer sermon series, we are talking about stories. The art of storytelling is often played out in movies. Share a story from a great movie that has moved you.
2. Brian spoke about the Thailand Soccer Team and being stuck in a cave. The parents of the soccer team quickly extended forgiveness to the coach who was responsible for their kids. Share how you personally have extended forgiveness to someone recently.
3. Read Matthew 18:21-22 as a group. Brian asked the question: Are there limits to how I extend forgiveness? There is a rhythm to forgiveness. Are there instances/people in your life where you feel like you have stopped forgiving?
4. Read Matthew 18:23-27 as a group. Why do you think Jesus went to great lengths to overemphasize the debt that had been forgiven in this story?
5. This story depicts a beautiful picture of the extravagant forgiveness that God extends to us and gives us freely as a gift. Where have you experienced this kind of forgiveness in your journey?
6. Read Matthew 18:28-31 together. Servant A received forgiveness but was unable to extend forgiveness to Servant B. Why couldn't this servant give back away the same mercy he received? Discuss.
7. Brian highlighted the difference in forgiveness between *Taking* which is a prideful transaction and *Receiving* which is a humble transaction. God forgives extravagantly, and he wants us to receive forgiveness and let it change us. This is easier said than done. Share where you are having difficulty forgiving someone or difficulty receiving forgiveness in your life.
8. Read Matthew 18:32-35 together as a group. Brian talked about the consequences of withholding forgiveness to people in our lives. He discussed 3 points to bring clarity for us:
 - a. Forgiving is a process that we need God's help for
 - b. If we are unable to extend mercy to those who have wronged us it could be a signal to us that we have not yet received the mercy of God ourselves deep enough to change us
 - c. When we choose to refuse to extend forgiveness, there are natural consequences like resentment that we harbor and keeps us captive.

Discuss which of these resonate most with you today.

9. Each week we are asked to reflect these two questions: Discuss with your group.
 - a. How does this story stir you?
 - b. How does this shape your personal journey?