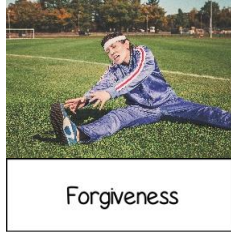


God's Story Your Story

February 22, 2015



Matthew 18:19-22

Faith 5 - A pattern for shaping a life of faith

SHARE:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

[Jesus said,] "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." Matthew 18:19-22

TALK:

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- In our litigating society, how does culture view justice? How does it view forgiveness? What might happen if people practiced forgiveness over blame and the need for restitution?
- Who stands in need of your forgiveness? What would it take to make you ready to forgive?

PRAY:

God of abundant mercy, you taught your children to forgive, and then to forgive again. Remind us to offer grace and forgiveness to all people for any offense, for the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESS:

Gracious and loving God, soften our hearts as we hear your word today. Give us the will and the power to be forgiving. Amen.

Some Background

Jesus often used parables to teach people about God and God's kingdom. In today's parable, Jesus taught that forgiving others makes sense in light of the abundant forgiveness God has extended to us. Jesus suggested that unity is more important than being right. His suggestion to forgive 77 times was not to limit forgiveness to a specified number of times, but to suggest that we forgive an unlimited number of times.

Follow the parables and teachings of Jesus, as Jesus challenged followers to do more for God's kingdom.

Sunday, Matthew 18:15-35, *Forgiveness*

Monday, Psalm 32:1-2, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 13:24-43, *Parables of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 13:44-58, *Parables of Jesus*

Thursday, Matthew 14:1-12, *Death of John the Baptist*

Friday, Matthew 14:34-15:20, *Teachings of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 15:21-39, *Teachings and Miracles of Jesus*