# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 18

|  |
| --- |
| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:Matthew 18 includes five sections; if you look closely, you will see a common thread: heaven. This chapter is, once again, a chapter you probably don’t hear much in YL club talks. So, the challenge is to ask ourselves: How does this chapter fit the gospel? I settled on The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant as a good option for a club talk. It really is a continuation of the previous story about forgiveness (18:15-20) and it has a short intro about forgiveness too (18:21-22). I think the real power of this story for a club talk is to display the depth of God’s grace for us when we receive it. So this ends up being a person of Christ talk which tells us more about “who God is”. This story also tells us a bit about ourselves, if we are honest, our tendency is to not be very forgiving. This talk could also be an invitation to receive God’s forgiveness. The gap between us and God is enormous. This could be an early preview of a “sin” talk. 1. The King who forgives (18:23-27)
2. The Servant who does not forgive (18:28-30)
3. The King who commands his servants to forgive (18:31-35)

  |
| Possible main point(s):* Who is the most generous person you know? God is infinitely more generous.
* Do you need forgiveness? God’s can forgive infinitely.
* Have you experienced God’s forgiveness in your life? If so, work hard to forgive others.
* Comparing God’s forgiveness and ours... the gap is endless.
 |
| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus is more generous with his forgiveness than you could ever imagine.
* Jesus gives us a task once we have been forgiven: Forgive others.
 |
| What this has to do with our life:* If you need forgiveness, you aren’t alone. We all need it.
* If you think you have made too many mistakes, or asked for forgiveness too often for the same things, keep asking, God’s grace is unending.
* If you have struggled to forgive someone who has hurt you, have you asked God to forgive you and to work on your heard regarding that person?
 |
| Relevant technical details:* Kingdom of heaven (v.23) = The way the world is supposed to be. God is working to restore the world to be this way through God’s people. The world needs people forgiven by God who forgive each other.
* King (v.23) = Every kingdom needs a king. In this passage the king is a metaphor for God.
* Ten thousand talents (v.24) = A talent was originally a weight of about 30 kilograms (66lbs) of metal, likely silver. A single talent would be approximately what a laborer would earn in half a lifetime. 10,000 talents = 60 million denarii = three hundred tons of silver. This is also 60 million days wages. Being a parable, the point is not the math, but to the meaning: What God has forgiven is beyond human calculation.
* Hundred denarii (v.28) = 100 days wages for a laborer (~$10,000?)
 |
| Possible illustrations:* A hundred dollar bill and a penny / Or, a penny and a check written for one trillion dollars.
* A scale with a grain of sand/salt and a huge weight.
 |

*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 18 (ESV)

**Who Is the Greatest?**

**18**At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” **2**And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them **3**and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4**Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**5**“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, **6**but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

**Temptations to Sin**

**7**“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! **8**And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. **9**And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

**The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

**10**“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. **12**What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? **13**And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. **14**So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

**If Your Brother Sins Against You**

**15**“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16**But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17**If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18**Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **19**Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20**For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

**21**Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” **22**Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**23**“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24**When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25**And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26**So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ **27**And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28**But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ **29**So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ **30**He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. **31**When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. **32**Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33**And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ **34**And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. **35**So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”