

# Discussion Ideas



Choose strategies from the list below to facilitate group discussion.

## Connecting Activity

Ask each person in the group to describe how they think it feels to forgive or to be forgiven.

## Discussion Questions

1. Who is affected most by Grandma's struggle to forgive in this story? Why?
  - *Grandma; she lives with bitterness and heaviness; her relationships are negatively affected.*
2. How do you see Grandma's humility in this story?
  - *She admits she is wrong and asks for forgiveness.*
3. What is the lesson of the ungrateful servant?
  - *Treat others as you want to be treated; forgive as you have been forgiven.*
4. ► How is unforgiveness like the tree trunk in the story? What can you do to remove the roots of unforgiveness in your life?
  - *The old stump has deep roots, like unforgiveness hurts from long ago; continue to choose to forgive; ask for God's help.*
5. ► When have you forgiven someone for hurting you in some way? How did that feel? What effect did that have on you and on your relationship?
  - *Generally, forgiveness should feel freeing; restore and strengthen relationships.*
6. ► What would you need to do in order to forgive someone who has hurt you or offended you in some way?
  - *Choose to stop holding that person responsible for the offence; ask God for help; in some situations, go to that person and ask.*

## Personal Growth Activity

Draw a picture that shows how it feels to be forgiven or to forgive.

### **☞ Spiritual Application**

Read Matthew 18:21-22. Then ask: What is Jesus saying about forgiveness in these verses? Why do you think forgiveness is such an important topic for Jesus?

### **☞ Prayer Point**

Lead the group in a prayer asking God for the courage to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others. Ask God to deal with any areas of bitterness in their lives. Pray that group members would experience the freedom of forgiveness in their relationships with God and with others.

### **☞ Encouragement**

Remind participants that forgiveness is a choice they may need to make over and over again. The freedom that choice will bring them will strengthen them and their relationships. Make sure you offer to talk with or pray with anyone who would like to spend time with you.

## Grandma's Wisdom

My daughter's necklace revealed something I had not yet dealt with in my heart. Even when the person who hurt you is no longer living, you can still forgive them. It takes courage to forgive, to let go when we think wrong has been done to us. But that is when true healing begins.

