



BETTER TOGETHER

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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AUGUST 6, 2017

1. BIBLE VERSE: *“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12, NLT)

2. APPLICATION

We are better together!

The scriptures teach that we are not intended to go through life by ourselves, but rather God intends that we would be a part of a community of faith.

One of the primary purposes of this community of faith is **DISCIPLESHIP!**

Discipleship is the passing on of biblical truths from one generation of believers to another.

3. DISCUSSION

How is discipleship accomplished?

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.” (2 Timothy 2:2, NLT)

Discuss with your family or friends how important friendship based relationships are to the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Q. How strategic are you about using your relationships for encouraging others in the things of the Lord?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, reveal to me how I can be a part of friendship/interest based groups and through the relationships built, move people closer to you.



FORGIVING OTHERS

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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AUGUST 6, 2017

1. POWER VERSE: **Matthew 6:14** *"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you."*

Forgiving someone for stepping on your toe may be easy, but what about someone who really hurts your feelings? Jesus taught us that we must forgive EVERYONE in order to be forgiven. This is an important lesson for our children to learn as they begin to face people who may be difficult to forgive.

2. THE WORD

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.' Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took



pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will

pay it back.' 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were

outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 'Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'



3. DISCUSSION

- Q. How many times did Jesus say we should forgive someone? What lesson do we learn from the servant in this story Jesus told?**
- Q. What was Jesus' final statement in verse 35?**
- Q. Do you think it is fair that you should have to forgive people who have hurt you?**

Jesus was teaching his disciples and others that we must forgive others, not once but over and over again. Forgiveness is not an option. If we want Jesus to forgive us, we have to forgive others who have hurt us.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Sometimes, forgiving people who have hurt us isn't easy. Jesus isn't saying forget what they have done to you, but He is saying forgive them. Forgiveness is possible because Jesus has forgiven us. He can help us to forgive others who have hurt us. Ask if anyone in your family has someone they need to forgive. Pray together that God will help you forgive others.