



**Opening:**

What car would you most like to drive?

What did you want to be when you grew up?

What is your favorite type of music?

What do you like most about yourself?

**Short Stories: Love | Week 4 | Matthew 18:21-35 | June 18**

1. Peter starts by asking Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother or sister. Other teachings of time suggested to forgive three or possibly four times, but Peter suggests seven times. Peter's answer to his own questions shows that he had already learned something about forgiveness from Jesus. What do you think Peter's question/answer implies he already knew?
2. The king's servant begged for more time to pay back his debt. Do you think he actually believed he could possibly pay back such an enormous sum? Do we sometimes think we can pay the debt we owe to God? How can this way of thinking affect our daily behaviors?
3. What motivates the king to forgive the servant?
4. Do you think the king's unconditional forgiveness minimizes the vastness of the debt that was owed? Do you think that if we forgive those who hurt us we are in some way minimizing the pain they've caused us or others? What if the person who caused the pain does nothing to make amends or atone for what they've done to us?
5. If we have truly been forgiven so much, why do we sometimes find it so hard to forgive others?
6. What do you think Jesus is hoping this parable will do in our hearts and lives?
7. What are some "real world" examples of what it looks like to live out the message of this parable?
8. Is there anyone in your own life that you are reluctant to forgive? What keeps you from forgiving them? Are you waiting for them to do something to pay down the debt they owe? Are you waiting for them to acknowledge the pain they've caused you?
9. What is the effect of carrying around that list of unpaid debts in our hearts?
10. What habits can we put in place to help us more readily live into Jesus' story of forgiveness rather than Lamech's story of vengeance?