



# STORYTELLERS

## Week 7

### BREAKING THE ICE

What do you believe is the greatest story ever told?

What has been your favorite parable from the Storytellers series?

### MAIN CONTENT

This week, we heard from our friend Pastor Kyle Idleman. Kyle told us a story about experiencing grace. We can explain grace, but we fully understand it abundantly when we've experienced grace in our own lives.

1. How have you experienced grace from a close relationship in your life?

Kyle read the parable of the unforgiving servant, which is about forgiveness and grace from Matthew 18. Read Matthew 18:23-35

2. Which person can you see yourself in this parable? (the master, the servant, the fellow servant)

We can take away a few important things from this parable. The first thing we realize is the debt owed could never be repaid in the servant's lifetime. Kyle mentioned the debt was over 300 million dollars in today's standards. We may not have that much money, but we have a lot of junk and sin in our lives that add up to that amount. Just like the master forgave and erased the servant's debt, God forgives and erases our sins when we confess and repent to Him.

3. How have you experienced God's grace and forgiveness in your life?

Read Matthew 6:14-15

The conclusion Kyle reminds us of in this Scripture is that it's not OK for you to accept God's grace, and then not show grace to others. It's not an option for you as a fully forgiven follower of Jesus to nurse a grudge and live your life with bitterness and resentment. We can't give more grace than the grace we've received. What we have been forgiven of is greater than any offense we will ever be asked to forgive.

4. Talk about a time when you received forgiveness from someone. How did that make you feel? What did you learn from this instance?

Colossians 3:13 reminds us to forgive others as God forgives us.

5. How easy is it for you to forgive others?

There are a few ways we deal with the bitterness and anger over a debt we are owed. We can repress it (push it down and ignore what happened) or rehearse it (rehash it which turns into resentment). When we repress and rehearse anger it can affect us physically. When we hold onto these things it weighs us down.

6. Do you have a tendency to repress or rehearse an incident when someone has wronged you? How has it affected your life when you hold on to bitterness?

Sometimes we choose to retaliate when someone has wronged us. When we retaliate, it doesn't heal the situation.

The last option on how to deal with a debt we feel owed to us is to release it. When we release it, we are saying you don't owe me anything. This is how God's grace works. He forgives us and we owe Him nothing in return. No matter what we have done, His grace is always greater.

7. Where do you need to experience God's grace in your life?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

God thank you for your grace. Your grace encompasses forgiveness to a degree that we can't even imagine. Please search our hearts for any unforgiveness and bitterness we may have. Help us extend grace to those who need it and help us experience your grace in our lives. We love you. Amen.

## **ACTION STEP**

+ Join us for our last week of the Storytellers podcast and sign-up for updates about future podcast releases at <https://crosspoint.tv/podcasts/>

+ Ask God where you are holding on to bitterness and ask Him to help you practice extending grace and forgiveness this week. Pray for His strength as you extend grace to those who need it.

+ Pray and ask God where you need to experience His grace in your life. Be open to repenting and asking for Him to heal you from the pain you may be carrying. Release it to Him and feel the grace and peace He gives.