

# FORGIVE AND FORGET?

## **Part 2: Does Forgiveness Enable Bad Behaviour?**

Forgiveness isn't fair and it can even seem like forgiving someone allows them to get away with bad behaviour or even abuse. Does that make forgiveness unjust? Maybe we need to adjust how we approach forgiveness in order to pursue true justice and reconciliation.

### **Ice Breaker**

Have you ever encountered a food that was hard to swallow, but you didn't want to offend someone? What did you do?

### **Introduction**

Do you think that forgiveness can be used to enable bad behaviour? Have you ever experienced that or seen it happen? What was the process that was followed and what was the result?

### **Read Mark 11:20-25 and Matthew 5:23-26**

1. What are the responsibilities that Jesus gives to his followers, in each passage? Who are we to forgive? Why are we supposed to forgive?
2. What are some of the barriers that we encounter when it comes to offering or asking for forgiveness?

### **Read Matthew 18:15-17**

3. What does Jesus teach about the process of forgiveness in this passage? Do you think that this is a practical way to approach resolving a conflict?
4. It can be very difficult to try to resolve conflicts with others. Are there any tips you could share about how to approach those kinds of situations (seeking forgiveness and reconciliation)? What have you found doesn't work?

### **Moving Forward**

Is there someone who you need to seek forgiveness from or give forgiveness to? What step could you take towards initiating a conversation to start that process?

### **Pray**

As you pray for one another, pray for any broken relationships that need healing. Ask God for forgiveness to change us and give us the courage to forgive others.