

# **ATHLETES INTERVARSITY**

**C H R I S T I A N F E L L O W S H I P**



# **TEAM CHAPELS**

**SERIES 1**

# **ATHLETES INTERVARSITY**

## **CHAPEL SERIES**

*(Written by Colleen Caskey)*

- 1. MATTHEW 18:21-35**
- 2. LUKE 18:9-14**
- 3. MARK 10:17-27**
- 4. LUKE 5:1-11**

### **KEY POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND:**

- Our goal is to communicate a part of the gospel by the end of each chapel
- Bring New Testaments or print out of scripture for the players
- Most of the application questions can be related to sports, but try to think through the team and any current issues or circumstances. Encourage them to think about the questions in relation to their team/sport
- Connect with the coach before hand to get clear guidelines for time and expectations of Chapel, if no time is given, stay around 20 minutes. Be very mindful of their time.
- Chaplin leads in prayer at the end

## MATTHEW 18:21-35

1. Starts off with Peter's question... Why do we feel the need to limit forgiveness at times?

*-If we keep on forgiving we could get hurt      -they don't deserve it*

2. Who are the characters? What do we learn about the king from observing this passage?

*-just: wanted to settle debts; demands justice*

*-forgiving: very forgiving to give over \$10,000!*

*-powerful      -generous/sacrificial*

3. What did the first servant ask for? Patience so he could pay back what he owed

a. What did he receive? Way more! Cancelled the whole debt and let him go

b. What does this tell us about the king? Generous and forgiving

4. What happens after the king forgives the first servant? Why do you think the servant then treated his debtor the way he did?

*-couldn't fully understand what the king had done for him      -selfish*

*-maybe he really needed the money, if he was in that bad of debt before?*

a. What does this tell us about the first servant's understanding of forgiveness?

5. Who does the King represent?

6. What is Jesus trying to tell us about forgiveness?

*-need to ask God to be forgiven*

*-God is generous and He will give it!*

*-a sacrifice needs to be made in order to forgive*

7. What is the only way we can forgive others without limit?

*-If we truly understand God's forgiveness of us, then we will be able to forgive others*

\*This is a tall order from Jesus, but He doesn't call us to something without equipping us first!

### **Prayer Response:**

Think of one thing you need to ask God forgiveness for; Silence then pray for group

Think of 1 person you need to ask God for help to forgive; Silence then pray for group

# LUKE 18:9-14

Think about verse 9:

-Describe this type of person.

-Do you know anyone like this?

1. Observe these two men. Describe their characteristics: (explain cultural significance of Pharisees (Jewish leaders) and Tax Collectors (collected from Jews and gave to Roman empire, usually took money off the top) if needed)

*-Pharisee: self-righteous, very religious, others would view him as a “good person” or “holy”, showy in what he does, generous maybe?, proud*

*-Tax Collector: sinner, humble, probably has cheated people in his life, realizes his own moral state, more outcast in Jewish society*

2. Describe the ways they try to get close to God

*-Pharisee: good works, tithe, fasting, comparisons*

*-Tax Collector: God’s mercy is the only thing he has going for him, humility (wouldn’t look to heaven)*

3. What does Jesus say about the two men?

*-Pharisee has exalted himself, God will humble him*

*-Tax Collector is made right with God (justified) not because of his own righteousness but because of God’s mercy—credited with God’s righteousness not his own*

4. Why is the tax collector justified?

*-He understands God’s holiness and his sinfulness; he asks for God’s mercy*

5. What are the things we try to do to get close to God? What does God actually want? (vs. 14)

6. How can you be more like the tax collector and less like the Pharisee?

## Prayer Response:

Think of one person or teammate that you may have let pride get in the way of your relationship.

Pray that God would soften our hearts to forgive that person, or reconcile that relationship.

## MARK 10:17-27

1. What is the man's question? (What do I need to do to get to heaven...)

2. Why does Jesus say that no-one is good?

*-because apart from God, no-one is good!*

*-Jesus is not denying His own identity, He is just making the point that God is the only perfectly good being*

3. Do you believe that no-one is good? Why or why not? –great time to dig and find out what they think about sinful nature/inherent sinfulness

4. Why does Jesus list the commandments?

*-He knows the man's heart, and knows that this man has kept all of the ones He listed*

5. Does Jesus list all the commandments? Which ones does he leave out? Why do you think he does this? (Thou shall not covet; Have no other God's besides me; Shall not take the name of God in vain)

*-Jesus knows the man has put his wealth before God and can't give it up;*

6. Why was the man so sad? What does he realize about himself?

*-He knows that he won't do what Jesus tells him to, and that he has broken God's law in this*

*-The rich man was trying to earn eternal life by following the law—Jesus knew the one area of the law the man was not following, and tried to show him that no one can follow the law, not even him!*

Reread 23-27—disciples question Jesus...

7. What is Jesus' answer?

*-we can't gain eternal life on our own, God set up the rules, and we all break them*

*\*but with God all things are possible!*

8. What is God's solution then? How does He make it possible?

*-help them understand what it means to be a Christian, share how you become a Christian; repentance, forgiveness from Jesus, grace*

*-If we want to follow Jesus by following the law, then Jesus says we can't*

*-we can follow Him through repentance and asking forgiveness; through God all things are possible!*

9. What area might Jesus call you out on if He were here today? (feel them out if they feel comfortable to answer)

# LUKE 5:1-11

1. What seems ridiculous about Jesus' request in verse 4?

- There was nothing to catch
- they had already packed up and were washing the nets
- it was the wrong time of day
- created more work for them

2. How do you interpret Simon Peter's reaction?

- skeptical
- sarcastic
- needy because they haven't caught anything
- unbelieving

3. What happens next?

4. Why does Simon Peter react the way he does after the miracle? What does he realize about himself and what does he realize about Jesus? (draw them out and help them to get to this answer on their own; they might not get it right away, but the goal is for them to recognize God's holiness and humans' sinfulness)

- the closer Peter gets to God, he sees God's perfection and his own sin and unworthiness
- We see this throughout the Bible; when people come close to God, they can't help but feel unworthy in His presence (Exodus 3, Isaiah 6)

5. Describe a time when you realized that you were not perfect. How did you feel?

6. What is Jesus' invitation to Peter?

- Following Jesus is the opposite reaction that Peter had
- as we get to know God, He calls us more to Himself, even though we don't deserve it; He does this out of love

7. Who in your life can you "fish" for? Who can you invite to learn more about Jesus?

2 questions to either answer out loud or to write down

1. What was your first real reaction with God? What did you learn about Him?
2. When you think of God, do you think of love or justice? Why? Can He be both? (this might be a good one to ask everyone, as many people say they can't believe in a God of justice)