



Series: **Seven Words to Change Your Life**

Message: **Sorry**

Text: **Matthew 18:15-35**

Connection Group Questions*

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." ~ Colossians 3:12-13

How's your "yes" and "no" going? Share some stories!

Do you have a hard time saying "sorry?" What kind of hurts are hardest to forgive?

Read Genesis 4:23-24

Have you, or someone you know, lived by the "Law of Lamech?" Why do we hold on to our perceived right to hurt people back?

Read Matthew 18:15-35

Matthew 15 gives a simple, seven step process for confrontation: 1) If there is conflict, 2) you, 3) go, 4) to the person, 5) in private, 6) to discuss, 7) for the purpose of reconciliation. Where does the process tend to breakdown in your experience?

The bible doesn't say "sorry" so much as it emphasizes forgiveness. Examine this story and discuss how to distinguish between **forgiving**, **forgetting** and **excusing**? Is it possible to forgive someone when reconciliation isn't possible? What is the effect of holding onto resentment?

George talked about a three-step process of forgiveness. Discuss these steps:

1. Giving up your perceived right to get even.
2. Seeing the person the way Jesus sees them.
3. Sincerely desiring God's blessing in their life.

Applications:

Have you, or how have you, experienced forgiveness from God in your life?

Is there anyone you need to offer forgiveness? Anyone from whom you need to seek forgiveness? Reflect on the forgiveness we receive in Jesus, and pray that you might be a "minister of reconciliation" to others.

* Questions adapted from Menlo Park's "Seven Words" bible study.