Not So Modern Family "Working Out Our Differences" Matthew 18:21-35 08.24.14

Dealing with Difficult People: Matthew 18:15-20

- What does your ______ say?
- What is this unforgiveness doing to _____?
- What if you knew forgiveness doesn't mean you will

have to _____?

• What if forgiveness brought you ______ to your Heavenly Father?

Applying this Truth to My Life: Matthew 18:21-35

- Look at ______ first. Matthew 7:1-5
- Choose to see God's _____ for you, not

other's _____ against you. Colossians 3:12-13

- Never try to _____ God. Let Him _____. Romans 12:17-21
- Take God _____! I John 2:9-11

FURTHER STUDY:

- 1. Forgiveness tends to be more of a journey than event. What are some reasons people have for holding onto grudges and not forgiving?
 - \Rightarrow Can you think of any signs that a person may not have forgiven someone?
- 2. Looking back at the home you were raised in, which of the following best describes the way people responded when they were hurt or wronged?
 - A) forgiveness was quickly given
 - B) forgiveness was hard to come by
 - C) forgiveness had to be earned
 - D) forgiveness was considered a sign of weakness
 - E) forgiveness was considered a sign of strength & character
 - F) issues that might require forgiveness were ignored
 - G) other _____
- **3.** One aspect of maintaining healthy relationships is learning to quickly ask for forgiveness when we've wronged someone. Read Genesis 32:6-11 & 33:1-11. Answer the following questions:
 - \Rightarrow What principles of asking for forgiveness or pursuing reconciliation do you see in this story?
 - \Rightarrow What emotions do you think Jacob and Esau experienced in this process?
 - \Rightarrow Why do you think it's often so hard to ask for forgiveness?
- 4. The Bible provides a wealth of general relational principles that can help us do our part in developing healthy relationships with all of our family members. How could the following passages help us relate better with our various family members?

Matthew 7:1-5 Matthew 5:23-24 Romans 12:14-21

- 5. Forgiveness can be difficult because it can feel like the other person is getting away with something. Read 1Samual 24:1-13 to see an example of David not seeking revenge even though he had been wronged by Saul.
 - \Rightarrow How and why do you think David was able to not seek justice for himself?
 - \Rightarrow What is the most challenging aspect for you in not seeking justice or revenge?
 - \Rightarrow How can this passage help motivate us to forgive instead of seeking revenge?
- **6.** As you think about your relationships with your extended family, are there any family members with which you sense you need to initiate restoring a relationship?