

# The Creed

*“...the forgiveness of sins...”*

Notes

Sermon Dates: May 15/16, 2010

## Icebreaker

- What is your favorite board game? Why? How do you keep score to know who wins?

## Opening Prayer

Open your time in prayer by inviting someone in the group to read Psalm 103 out loud. This is a prayer of praise written by David to the LORD. Once the Psalm is read, take a few moments to silently reflect on David's praise to God for His love, mercy, redemption and forgiveness. After a couple of minutes invite group members to offer up sentence prayers of praise for what God's grace and forgiveness means to them personally.

## Questions for Discussion

1. Read Matthew 18:21-35 and answer the following questions.
  - a) Rabbis (first century Bible scholars and teachers) taught that when someone sinned against you, you were only obligated to forgive them up to three times (Amos chapter 1). Peter must have been feeling pretty good about himself when he asked the question. What does Jesus response tell us about how things work in God's kingdom?
  - b) Do you see any problems or dangers with unlimited forgiveness? Explain. What might be the advantages or wisdom in a “three strikes and your out” approach toward forgiveness?
  - c) Jesus more fully explains the nature of this radical vision of forgiveness through a parable (story) in verses 23-35. Make a list of as many observations and insights from this story as possible.
  - d) What would you do to celebrate if suddenly all your debts were canceled?
  - e) What could possibly have motivated this servant who had been forgiven of such an enormous debt, to respond the way he did to the servant who owed him so little in comparison?
  - f) Which character do you most relate to in the story? (*taken from the Serendipity Bible, page 1355*) Why?

